



THIS IS PLAINFIELD

PUBLISHED AS A SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY BY THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

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1965





A GUIDE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Prepared and Published by

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Plainfield, New Jersey

1965

one dollar

THIS

IS

PLAINFIELD

FOREWORD

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is a nonpartisan organization open to all women citizens of voting age. It takes action in support of or in opposition to selected governmental issues, but it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League of Women Voters of Plainfield has published this book to make easily available to our fellow citizens a basic tool of responsible citizenship: factual information about our city government, our public services and our community. This is a new edition of the handbook **This is Plainfield** first published in 1954. The material was collected by League members through research and by conferences with city officials. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy.

It is hoped that the reader will find the book interesting and informative, and that it will serve as an inspiration for further study and participation in public affairs. The Plainfield League extends its sincere appreciation to the many public officials and citizens who assisted in the preparation of this handbook.

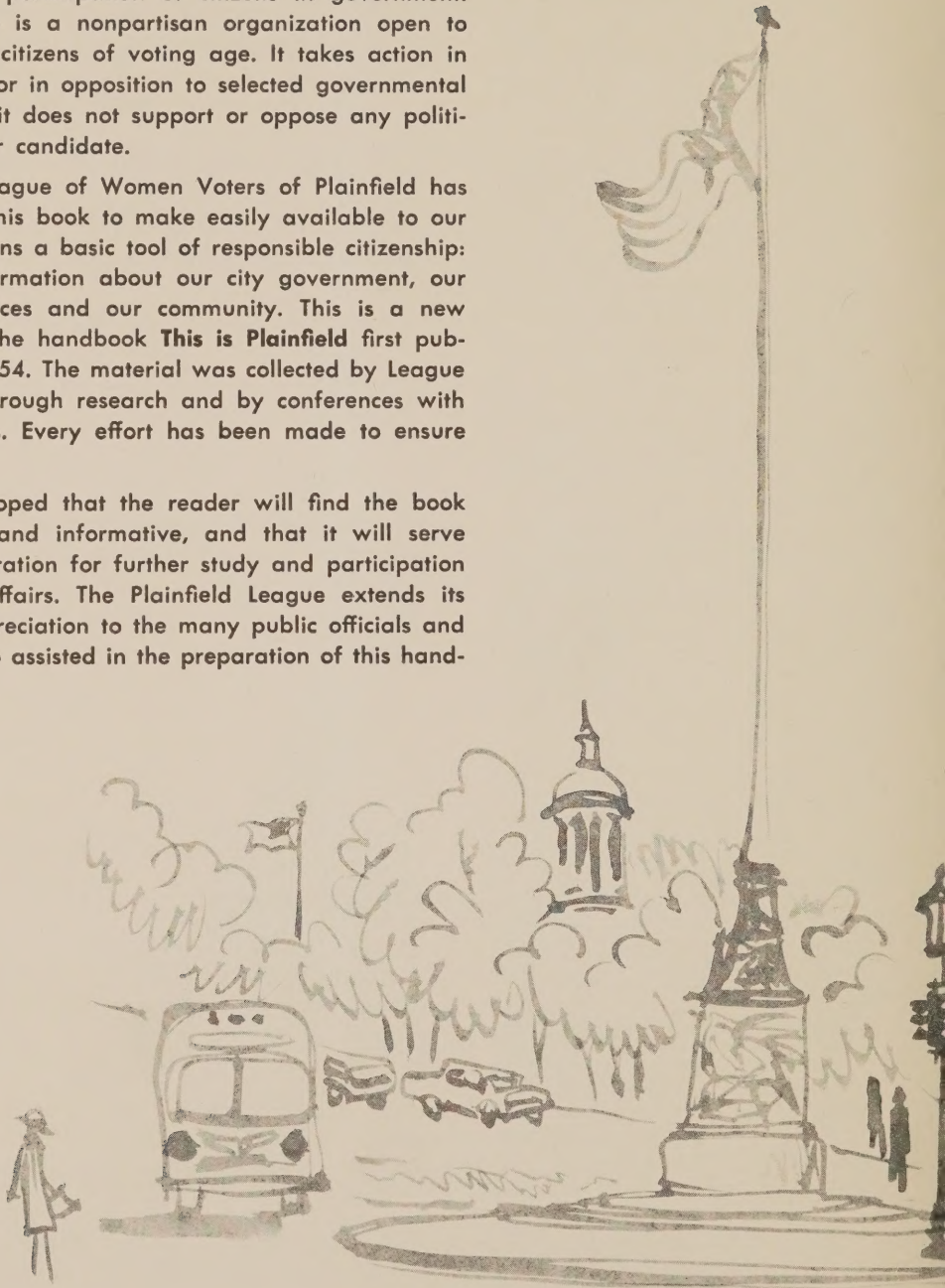


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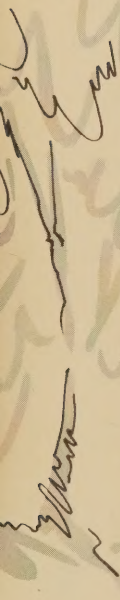


Friends' Meeting House

The story of a city is the story of its people, their dreams and their accomplishments, their weaknesses and their strengths.

Plainfield's earliest settlers, like many others who pioneered this country, came here to escape persecution in their homelands and to find the religious and political freedoms denied them in their own countries. By 1685, seven families (whose names identify them as "all good Scots") established farms along the Cedar Brook.

But long before the arrival of the first settlers, the Indians had frequented the area in their travels between the Hudson and Delaware rivers. The trail they marked out hundreds of years ago ran through the heart of our city. When the railroad was built in the 1800's, it followed that old Indian trail. The Indian, lured by a love of seafood, branched off his main trail to the Hudson and cut down to the ocean. Today's Woodland Avenue follows that old Indian cutoff to the sea.



The settling of New Jersey did not involve the problem of hostile Indians as it did in so many of the new colonies. The New Jersey tribe, the Lenni-Lenape of the Algonquin group, had been thoroughly subdued by their ferocious neighbors, the Iroquois. Also, there were 2,500 square miles of land and only about 2,000 Indians, so that the white men had plenty of room for a peaceful entry. The Watchungs, a division of the Lenni-Lenape tribe (commonly called Delaware) were the Indians living in this area. The greatest enemy of the new land was a plague that only recently has been brought under control — the New Jersey mosquito!

The new settlement was named Milltown, an evident bow to the grist mill which was built in 1760 on Green Brook near what is now Watchung Avenue. By 1788 the Quakers had moved their Friends' Meeting House to the corner of Watchung Avenue and East Third Street where it still remains as one of the historic landmarks of the city. It originally was built in 1736 near the present day Plainfield Country Club.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

During the American Revolution this area, although mostly open farm land with a population of only about fifty people, was of sufficient military importance to warrant a large militia post. Built along the east bank of Green Brook River between what are now Clinton and West End Avenues, the post consisted of 95 acres and a large fort. It guarded the main road to Quibbletown (the New Market of today) and the mountain pass, of which the present day Somerset Street is an extension.

EARLY DEVELOPMENTS

In 1800 a postoffice was established and the name of the growing community was changed to Plainfield. The name was appropriate to the gently rolling fields of the area, which at that time sustained a population of only 215 people.

Growth accelerated from that point on and in 1834 this description of Plainfield appeared in Thomas F. Gordon's **A Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey**:

"Plainfield, a large and thriving village of Westfield t-ship, Essex co., on Green Brook, the line between that and Somerset co . . . 65 miles from Philadelphia, 45 from Trenton, . . . 16 from Elizabethtown, 25 from New York, . . . on a plain of very level land, between 2 and 3 miles wide, and about 11 long; contains 1 Presbyterian, 1 Baptist, and 1 Methodist church, 2 Friends' meeting houses, (Hicksite and Orthodox) 2 grist mills, 1 saw mill, 4 stores, 3 schools, 2 clergymen, 1 lawyer, 2 physicians, 2 taverns, 4 stores, 13 master hatters, who manufacture about \$75,000 worth of hats annually; 5 master tailors, employing 70 hands, who work for the southern market; a fire engine, and company, a mutual insurance company, established in 1832, which in a few months, executed policies to the amount of more than \$150,000; and 120 dwellings; a ladies' library, an apprentices' library. A four-horse mail stage, to New York, three times a week, and as often to Philadelphia, on alternate days, runs through the village. The country around the town is rich, well cultivated, and healthy; the water good, and the society moral and religious, and ambitious of improvement. The neighbouring mountain, about a mile N. of the town, affords an abundant supply of cheap fuel, and screens the valley from the violence of the N. and N. W. winds; and gives a very pleasing prospect to the S. and E., over a space of 30 miles."

In 1857 Essex County was divided and Plainfield was in the new Union County.

THE RAILROAD

The new and great force that was a creator and developer of urban communities — the railroad — was completed in 1838 and provided rail service between Plainfield and Elizabethtown. The train supplanted the stagecoach runs between these points, and to reach New York the traveler boarded a boat at Elizabethport. Southwestward from Plainfield he traveled to Philadelphia by stagecoach. The railroad kept pace with the increased travel and Plainfield came into its own as a commuters' town. Many of the city dwellers who came to spend their summers and vacations "in the country" stayed to build their homes here.

PLAINFIELD BECOMES A CITY

By an act of the New Jersey legislature Plainfield was made a township in 1847. In 1867 it was incorporated as a village and in 1869 became a city. Job Male was its first Mayor.

Boundaries of the newly incorporated city were specified in the charter of 1869 and were expanded in 1878



to include all of the former township of Plainfield. Its area is approximately six square miles and it lies 100 to 120 feet above sea level (the Watchung Mountains to the north of the city rise to 550 feet). Green Brook forms a natural boundary separating Plainfield from Watchung, North Plainfield and Green Brook (Township) in Somerset County. To the north and east are Scotch Plains and Fanwood. The Middlesex County line forms the southern boundary dividing Plainfield from Dunellen, Piscataway and South Plainfield.



In 1862 Western Union opened a branch office and by 1883 the first telephone station was established. The Plainfield Gas Light Company opened its plant in 1860 and served the community until 1906 and the Plainfield Electric Light Company started business in 1886. Public Service Corporation of New Jersey was organized in May 1903 and became the Public Service Electric and Gas Company which serves the city today.

A private academy was established in 1812 and others were built in the 1830's; the first free public schools opened in 1847.

PLAINFIELD TODAY

Plainfield, frequently referred to as the Queen City, is located in north central New Jersey 24 miles southwest of New York City via United States Highway 22. As part of the Greater New York metropolitan area Plainfield benefits from the resources of the larger cities. New York and Newark newspapers are regularly read here, their radio and television stations are heard and their education and entertainment facilities are utilized. At the same time Plainfield is itself a core city. More populous than the surrounding communities, it serves as a civic, cultural and economic center for the greater Plainfield area. It has a large shopping and business district and its own newspaper and radio station. While primarily residential in character, Plainfield is the home of a variety of manufacturing industries ranging from heavy machinery to handbags.

POPULATION

The changes that have taken place over the years have followed the pattern of our national growth and progress. The 215 inhabitants of 1800 have grown to an estimated population of 47,860 in 1965. At the time of the 1960 census the population was 45,330; about 5,000 residents were over 65 and 14,000 under 18 years old; the median age was about 33. Ten per cent of the city's inhabitants were foreign-born and 22% were non-white.

Plainfield experienced its greatest population increases between 1890 and 1930. Since then the rate of growth per decade has averaged 7% due largely to the lack of land available for housing.

While the city's internal growth is stabilized, the surrounding communities have had remarkable increases in population in recent years, assuring the continued importance of Plainfield as a core city.

LABOR AND INCOME

The more than 18,000 wage earners who live in Plainfield work in Plainfield and the surrounding communities, some commuting to Newark and New York. According to the 1960 census 33% are employed in manufacturing, 11% in trade, 10% in the professions, and 4% in government and education. Some of the remaining workers are in repair services, construction, railways, real estate and insurance, and hospital and private household service.

Per capita income in 1960 was approximately \$2,500 per year. This was higher than the national average of \$2,000. The median income per family in Plainfield was \$7,200 per year, as compared to the national median income per family of \$5,660 per year.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Retail trade in the downtown shopping district employs about 4,000 people from Plainfield and the surrounding communities. Within this district there are department stores, specialty shops, variety stores, appliance equipment and supply firms, automobile agencies and numerous service establishments. Local financial institutions supply every kind of banking service. Retail sales in downtown Plainfield were \$120,000,000 according to the 1960 United States Census. Other estimates have been much higher.

Skilled labor, convenient transportation facilities and nearness to markets and ports have helped make the Plainfield area a desirable location for a variety of manufacturers. Most of the industrial land within the city's borders is already in use. Products manufactured here include men's hats, women's and children's dresses, handbags, gloves, awnings and shades, electronic components, precision instruments, electric motors, ventilating equipment (fans and blowers), plastic products, adhesives, starches, wood products, ornamental iron railings, cemetery memorials, welding equipment and newspaper printing presses.

NEWSPAPER

Plainfield's first newspaper was the **Herald**, a weekly journal published for just a few months in 1835. Two years later the **Plainfield Union and General Advertiser** began publication, founded after six months and was bought by M. F. Cushing. The new owner-editor shortened its name to **Plainfield Union** and published it weekly from 1837 to 1868. Under a new name, **Central New Jersey Times**, and with several different owners this newspaper continued to appear each week until publication was suspended on January 1, 1900.

A Republican paper called the **Daily Bulletin** was Plainfield's first daily. It lasted from 1879 to 1883. **The Constitutionalist**, a Democratic weekly founded in 1869, became the **Daily Press** in May 1887. The **Evening News** appeared from June 1884 to November 1894. It was

then bought by F. W. Runyon who combined it with his **Courier** (first published October 4, 1891) to form **The Courier-News**.

From these beginnings sprang the paper that serves the Plainfield area today. Owned since 1927 by The Gannett Company, **The Courier-News** is an evening paper published daily except Sunday by The Plainfield Courier-News Company at 201 Church Street. Its paid circulation is over 47,000 and it employs more than 200 people. Thorough coverage of local area news is supplemented by news of state and national affairs.

RADIO

Radio Station WERA, in operation since 1961, is owned by the Tri-County Broadcasting Corporation. It is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to broadcast from sunrise to sunset at 1590 kilocycles.

News coverage of the tri-county area (Union, Middlesex and Somerset counties) is provided along with state, national and world news. Daily programs include interviews, women's programs and popular and semi-classical music. Special local events are frequently broadcast as are high school athletic contests.

WERA's Datebook announces on request the meeting of local non-profit organizations. The station is located in the Park Hotel Annex, 200 West 7th Street.



STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT

AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Plainfield was incorporated as a city in 1869. Its charter was granted by a special act of the state legislature in 1872 and then adopted by local referendum. Succeeding acts of the legislature have largely superseded the provisions of the original charter.

Today Plainfield derives its authority principally from general state laws and from specific state laws applicable to cities of its size. Its governmental powers are generally limited to those which are expressly prescribed in such laws.

Certain state regulations are mandatory particularly in matters of finance, education, health and welfare, but much state legislation is permissive and requires a local ordinance to make it effective.

LOCAL — STATE RELATIONS

The New Jersey statutes for municipal legislation group cities into four classes according to population and location. Plainfield, an

inland city of over 45,000 population, is in the second class (population 12,000 - 150,000).

A trend toward greater municipal autonomy began in 1917 with the Home Rule Act and continued with the adoption of the new state constitution in 1947.

The 1950 Optional Municipal Charter Act, known as the Faulkner Act, permits municipalities a choice of several forms of government. These include variations of the mayor-council and council-manager forms as well as plans designed for smaller municipalities.

To initiate a change under this act two procedures are available. The first requires the election of a charter commission. Such an election may be initiated by petition of twenty per cent of a municipality's voters or by an ordinance of its governing body. The commission, composed of five private citizens, analyzes the existing and optional governmental forms and must file its recommendations within nine months. If an optional plan is proposed, the question is then submitted to the voters in a referendum election.

Under the second procedure, the election of a charter commission is not required. Upon petition of a prescribed number of registered voters, a direct election may be held to decide the question of adopting any of the optional plans.



ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT

Plainfield has a mayor-council form of government which may be classified as the weak mayor-strong council type. Although laws are made by the Common Council, both the Mayor and Council share responsibility for their enforcement and for the functions of city departments and boards.

Elected officials are the Mayor, eleven Councilmen, the Treasurer and the Tax Collector (present Tax Collector has been given tenure by referendum). All except the Tax Collector serve on a part-time basis.

MAYOR

The Mayor, elected on the even year for a two-year term, is the executive officer of the city. His annual salary is a nominal \$300. Legislation may be recommended by him, but he has no vote. He has simple veto power but his veto can be overridden by a simple majority vote of the Council.

The Mayor is empowered to appoint certain personnel but many of his appointments are subject to confirmation by the Council. He is permitted to take control of the Police and Fire departments in emergency only.

As municipal functions have become increasingly complex, the responsibilities of the Mayor have grown. In recent years new advisory and administrative agencies have been created in which he or members named by him serve.

The Mayor delivers to the Common Council each January an annual message on the general state of the city government and its finances. The full text is reprinted in **The Courier-News**, and copies are available at the office of the City Clerk.

The Mayor is frequently called upon to represent the city at civic functions. His office is on the first floor of City Hall and he may be seen by appointment.

COMMON COUNCIL

The governing body of the city is the Common Council which has eleven members, two from each of the city's four wards plus three from the city at large. Four ward Councilmen are elected in the even year. The remaining four and the three Councilmen-at-large are elected in the odd year.

The Common Council is empowered by state law to conduct the affairs of the city by enacting and enforcing local laws and by appropriating funds. The Council appoints boards, commissions and officials, and approves most of the Mayor's appointments. All city departments are under its jurisdiction.

Municipal laws passed by the Common Council are known as ordinances. An ordinance is introduced and adopted on first reading at a Council meeting and then advertised in **The Courier-News**. Following a second reading at a subsequent Council meeting it is again voted upon. If adopted (generally by a majority vote, although most appropriations require a two-thirds vote), the ordinance is sent to the Mayor for approval and again published in the local paper. Veto by the Mayor may be overridden by a simple majority vote of the Council.

Official action by the Council is also taken through passing resolutions which do not require two readings or newspaper publication and which may be passed at the meeting when introduced.

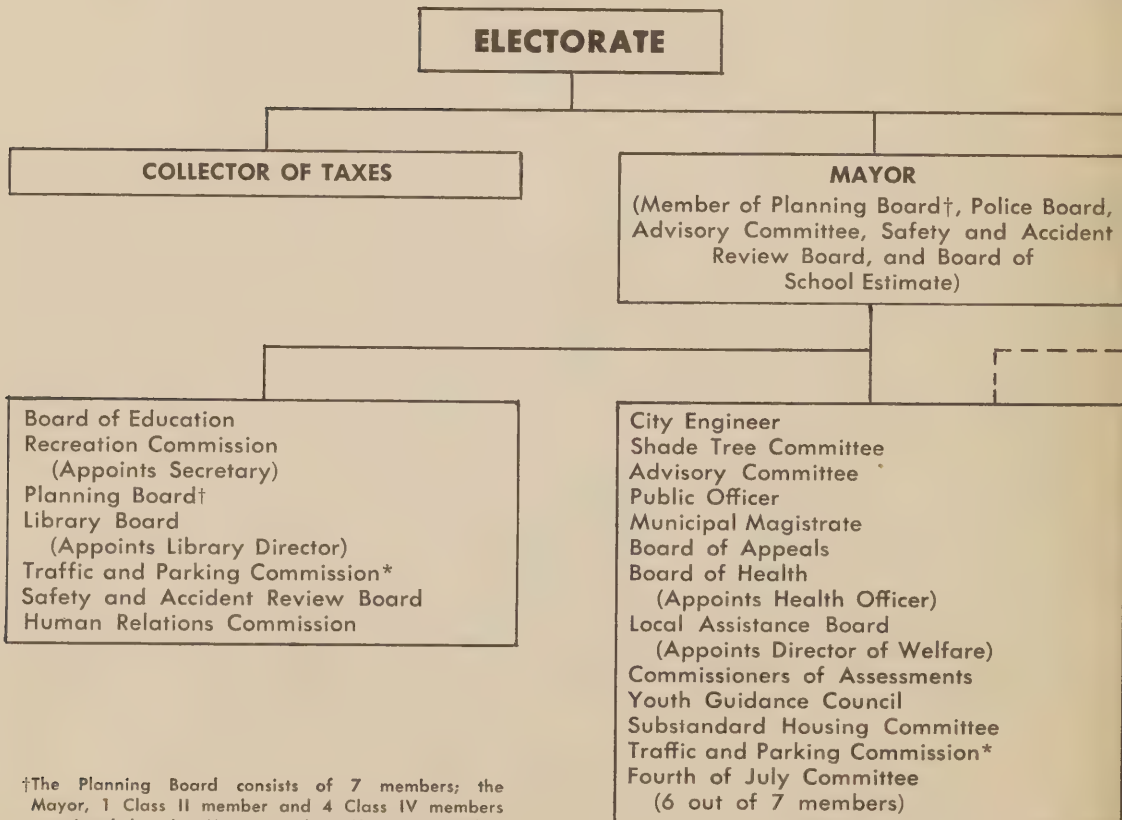
The principal difference between ordinances and resolutions lies in subject matter. Generally, official action on bond issues, large expenditures and regulatory measures can only be taken through ordi-

nances. Resolutions cover more routine matters such as zoning exceptions, adoption of the annual budget and appointments of boards and commissions. Both resolutions and ordinances must be adopted by at least a majority of the Council.

The Common Council organizes annually on the first Saturday in January, adopts its rules and elects a President. He in turn appoints members to standing committees naming a chairman for each. Matters referred to the committees for study are reported back to the Council for action.

Council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month (first Monday only in July and August) at 8 p.m. at City Hall.

CITY O



†The Planning Board consists of 7 members; the Mayor, 1 Class II member and 4 Class IV members appointed by the Mayor, and 1 Class III member appointed by the Common Council.

*The Traffic and Parking Commission consists of 12 members, one appointed from the Common Council by its president, one, who must be a member of the Planning Board, appointed by the Mayor, and 10, 3 of whom may be City officials or employees, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Common Council.

————— Appointed.

- - - - - Confirmed.

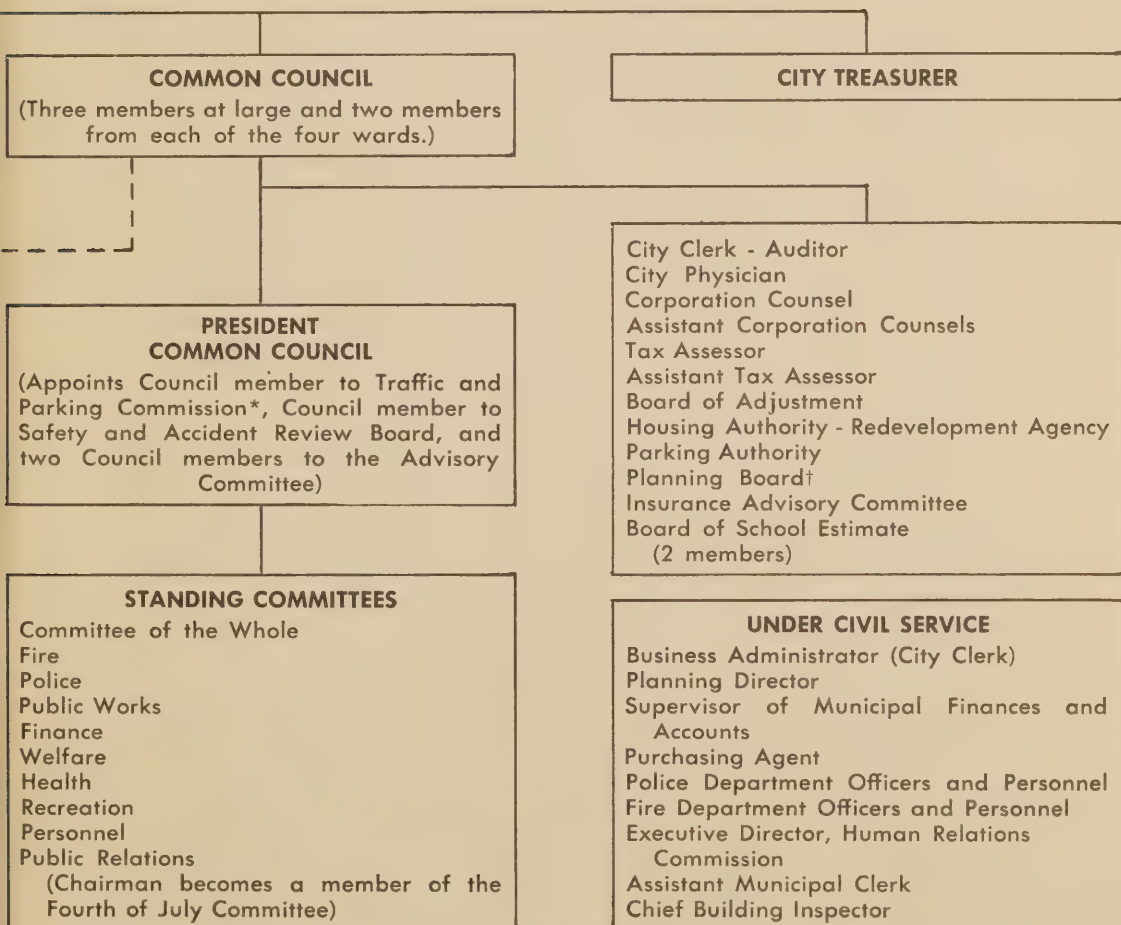
The privilege of the floor is extended to the public on any matter of public interest.

Committee of the Whole meetings, held Thursday evenings prior to regular Council meetings, serve as discussion and study conferences in preparation for official action. The public may attend but is not permitted to speak, except with special permission.

ADMINISTRATOR

The office of Administrator was established in 1964 and is under Civil Service. As agent of the Common Council in the administration and direction of municipal affairs, he coordinates activities of city

PLAINFIELD



departments and is the Council's official representative. He advises the Common Council on matters of policy and acts as liaison with city officials, civic and community groups.

The Administrator recruits personnel, advises on employment policies and administrative practices, and maintains pension and civil service records.

As public relations representative of the city, he prepares reports of the Mayor and Council, issues information releases, and follows up requests and complaints from citizens. He prepares agendas for all Council meetings and for committee meetings of the Council and supervises execution of action taken therein.

CITY CLERK

The City Clerk, appointed by the Council, is the custodian of ordinances, resolutions, Council proceedings, general records, books and documents of the city. He handles sales of city-owned properties, issues licenses and permits, and is responsible for conducting elections and registering voters.

In 1965 the Administrator was also the City Clerk. The salary range for the combined position was \$14,140 - \$18,070.

Assistant Municipal Clerk

In the absence of the City Clerk, the Assistant Municipal Clerk has the powers and performs the duties of the City Clerk. He is appointed for five years by the Council. In 1965 the Assistant Municipal Clerk received a salary within the \$7,690 - \$9,820 range.

CORPORATION COUNSEL

The Corporation Counsel is the city's attorney and acts as legal advisor to the Common Council, Mayor and city departments. He is appointed for a three-year term by the Council and must be a resident and practitioner of law in Plainfield. His salary in 1965 was \$9,000 plus a stenographic allowance of \$1,750. For duties other than those required under the city ordinances he receives extra compensation.

Assistant Corporation Counsels

The Assistant Corporation Counsel is appointed for a three-year term by the Council. He also must be a resident and practitioner of law in Plainfield. He acts as prosecutor in the Municipal Court. His annual salary is \$6,000.

Two other assistant corporation counsels are appointed by the Common Council for one-year terms. The Second Assistant Corporation Counsel performs the legal services required by the Board of Adjustment. Legal services for the Planning Board are provided by the Third Assistant Corporation Counsel. Their salaries are set by the Council.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

The Human Relations Commission was formed in 1963 to foster community goodwill and cooperation and to advise the Mayor and the Common Council on general policies and educational programs for eliminating discrimination in the city.

The Commission consists of not less than eighteen nor more than twenty-seven members appointed by the Mayor. Four of these may be recommended to him by the Executive Secretary. All members serve without compensation for three-year terms.

Coordinator of the Commission's activities is the Executive Director (Executive Secretary) who is chosen by the Common Council under civil service. The 1965 salary range for this office was \$7,690 - \$9,820.

The Commission is composed of committees on housing, education, employment and public relations. Among the initial activities of the Human Relations Commission were:

1. Formation of the Coordinating Council on Human Rights which is composed of local groups working for civil rights.
2. Establishment of a Job Talent Center for matching job opportunities with capabilities.
3. Organization of the Quality Education Committee in which representatives of various community groups work toward better education in Plainfield.
4. Mediation of individual and group grievances.
5. Participation in programs and workshops on human relations designed to educate the public in living together.

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Insurance Advisory Committee has three members appointed by the Council who serve for three years. The Committee is called upon intermittently by the Finance Committee of the Common Council for advice on insurance matters.

SAFETY AND ACCIDENT REVIEW BOARD

The Safety and Accident Review Board has eight members appointed by the Mayor for a term of one year. The Board reviews accidents of city personnel to determine whether they are chargeable or non-chargeable to the city government.

CIVIL SERVICE

All city employees with the exception of appointments authorized by state law are under Civil Service.

The New Jersey Civil Service Commission classifies jobs as to requirements and qualifications of candidates and prepares competitive examinations. When an opening is to be filled, an employee is chosen from the top three candidates who have successfully passed the required examination.

All civil service employees must serve a three-month probationary period following which employment is permanent. Only inefficiency in performance or misbehavior on the job can cause dismissal.

Promotions are made by civil service examination which must be held when there are more than three candidates. With less than four, permanent promotions may be made on the recommendation of the department head and with approval of the State Department of Civil Service.

All city employees, including teachers, firemen and policemen, are members of state retirement systems. Employees may retire after 25 or more years of service or at any time after reaching the age of 60. Both employees and the city contribute to the systems.

The Common Council sets wage and salary scales for all municipal employees with the exception of employees of the Board of Education. The 1965 pay scales, with minimum and maximum salaries for each grade, were adopted in 1964 following recommendations of a job evaluation survey conducted by an independent management consulting firm.

CITY-OWNED BUILDINGS

City Hall, built in 1917-18, is located on Watchung Avenue between East 5th and East 6th Streets. Most city departments, as assigned by the Common Council, are housed there.

Other city-owned buildings are:

Fire Department:

Headquarters, 315 Central Avenue
Substation, Bergen and West 3rd Streets
Substation, 1015 South Avenue

Police Department:

Headquarters, Watchung Avenue and East 4th Street

City Garage and City Yard:

745 South Avenue
Houses offices of Shade Tree Superintendent and Superintendent of Streets and Sewers. Equipment of Department of Public Works also stored here.

Public Library:

801 College Place (Park Avenue and West 8th Street)
Present building to be replaced in 1967 at adjacent location.

Public Schools:

Administrative offices, 504 Madison Avenue
(See school listings in chapter on Education.)

RELATIONS WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES

By state law Plainfield is permitted to enter into contractual agreements to buy services from or sell services to other municipalities.

Such is the cooperative sewage arrangement called the Joint Meeting for the communities of Plainfield, North Plainfield and Dunellen. The sewerage system of the Joint Meeting empties into the facilities of the Middlesex County Sewerage Authority.

The Plainfield Public Library serves the surrounding communities and recently has been declared an area library by the state government. For additional books and services rendered outside of municipal limits, it is reimbursed from federal funds.



Plainfield City Hall

Advisory cooperative groups have been formed with other communities to discuss problems transcending local boundaries. One of these, the Inter-Municipal Group for Better Rail Service, is working for improved rail passenger transportation. The membership of this group consists of representatives from 18 municipalities and two counties on the main line of the Central Railroad Company of New Jersey. It has supported the "Aldene Plan" which calls for a consolidation of railroad lines leading into the Newark - New York metropolitan area.

Since early 1964 two representatives from each of thirteen Plainfield area communities have been meeting as a temporary Regional Planning Council of the Greater Plainfield Area working toward the formation of a regional advisory board. The government of Plainfield has approved participation of the city in the regional planning group.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Plainfield is located in Union County which is governed by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Board has nine members elected at large for staggered terms of three years.

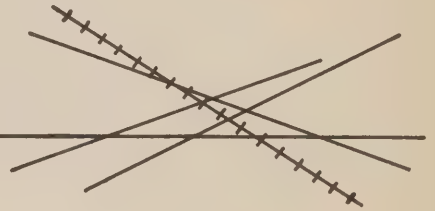
County revenue comes principally from real property taxes which are levied and collected by the city along with its municipal taxes. In 1965 Plainfield will pay an estimated \$935,000 to Union County or 10.6% of taxes levied. With this revenue the county maintains highways, parks and institutions and pays for the expenses of the county courts.

STATE REPRESENTATION

Plainfield residents are represented in the state Senate by one Senator elected from Union County for a four-year term. Under an interim reapportionment plan adopted in April 1965 a second Senator from the county will be elected in the next general election, November 1965.

Five members of the General Assembly are elected at large from Union County for two-year terms in odd numbered years.

POPULAR CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT



Politics is government in action. Your birth certificate is your introduction to it and from then on it affects everything you do. The government is as good as the people who participate in it.

REGISTRATION

Registration is the key that opens the door of the voting booth on election day.

Requirements

To be eligible to register to vote a person must

1. Be a United States citizen. Naturalized citizens must show proof of citizenship.
2. Be 21 years or older by the next election.
3. Have resided in New Jersey for at least six months by the next election.
4. Have resided in Union County for at least 40 days by the next election.
5. Reside in the district in which he expects to vote.
6. Not be disqualified as an idiot, an insane person or a criminal.

Place of Registration

One must register in person at the City Clerk's office in City Hall, 515 Watchung Avenue, or at the Union County Board of Elections

office in the Court House in Elizabeth. Special regulations for registration apply to persons physically unable to register in person.

Time of Registration

The hours are from 9 to 5, Monday through Friday, except for the 40 days prior to each primary and general election during which registration is closed. Special evening hours and other officially designated locations are set near the end of the registration periods.

Re-registration

Registration is permanent and re-registration is not necessary unless a person has not voted for four years, not reported a change of residence, changed one's name by marriage, divorce or court decree, or become disqualified. If you move to another address within Union County you may transfer your registration by mailing a notice of the new address on a form provided by the City Clerk, or on the back of the registration card. If you move within the county during the 40 days preceding an election you may vote in that election from your former address by signing an affidavit concerning your change of residence. If you change your name within 40 days preceding an election you may vote in that election by signing both names.

VOTING

Anyone who has complied with the registration requirements is eligible to vote. The general election is held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The primary election has been held the third Tuesday in April but in 1965 it was changed to the first Tuesday in June and is subject to possible further change by the state legislature.

The City of Plainfield is divided into four wards comprised of 32 districts which are established by city ordinance. Population is the chief guide to charting out districts within the wards. The number of registered voters in each district varied from 375 to 1,063 and the number in each ward varied from 3,827 to 6,926 in November 1964.

The polling place in each district and the hours when the polls will be open are shown on the official sample ballot which is sent to each registered voter before every election.

A citizen must vote in person in his home district unless he meets the provisions of the Absentee Voting Law. Military personnel and certain registered voters may, under specified conditions, obtain absentee ballots from the County Clerk by applying in person or by mail, application to be in the hands of the County Clerk at least eight days before an election.

By special dispensation of the New Jersey Legislature people who do not comply with residential requirements can vote for President and Vice-President by obtaining an application from the City Clerk.

ELECTION OFFICIALS

The Union County Board of Elections, composed of two Democrats and two Republicans appointed for two-year terms by the Governor, sets up the election machinery and has jurisdiction over the administration of the state election laws.

A District Board of Elections is appointed by the Union County Board of Elections for each of the election districts in a municipality. The District Board usually consists of two Democrats and two Republicans who are recommended by county political organizations. The District Board is charged with the responsibility of conducting and carrying out the election duties in its particular district. These election officials are given brief instruction on the operation of the voting machines and voting procedures; they receive \$30 each for the day's work.

The City Clerk, acting under the rules and directions of the County Board of Elections, is the official responsible for the administration of registration laws and the supervising of elections in Plainfield. The City Clerk is responsible for the primary ballot and the County Clerk is responsible for the general election ballot. Election expenses are paid by the county, except that the city pays for the primary election ballots and for mailing the sample ballots.

CANDIDATES

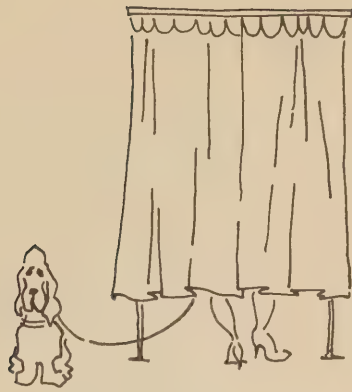
Party candidates for the general election are selected by party members in the primary election. To vote in the primary a voter must first sign a declaration designating the political party for whose candidate he wishes to vote. This is done at the polling place on primary election day. Once a voter has thus become a member of a political party he cannot vote in the primary of another party until he has refrained from voting in two successive primary elections.

Party members also elect a county committeeman and a county committeewoman from each district every year.

Only those political parties which polled at least ten percent of the vote in the preceding general election of members of the State General Assembly may nominate their candidates in primary elections. Other candidates may be placed on the general election ballot by a petition which must be filed with the County Clerk before the primary election. The local Municipal Committee of a party may fill vacancies on its slate after the primary by filing petitions with the County Clerk. Voting machines are equipped with special slots for write-in candidates.

In the general election voters elect national, state, county and city officials and vote on state, county, and local referendums and public questions. Elected local officials are the Mayor, Treasurer, Tax Collector, and the eleven members of the Common Council. A recent





referendum approved the reduction of the firemen's hours to 42 per week by action of the Common Council and another gave tenure to the Tax Collector. The initiative, a means by which the people may introduce or enact legislation by way of the ballot, has not been used in Plainfield for over forty years.

PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

In November 1964 there were 21,607 registered voters which is about two-thirds of the adult population of Plainfield.

ELECTION	NUMBER VOTING	PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS
General Election 1963	13,179	69%
General Election 1964 (Presidential year)	19,495	90%
Primary 1964 — Democrats	974	5%
Primary 1964 — Republicans	2,408	13%
Primary 1964 — Total	3,382	18%

The percent of registered voters casting ballots in presidential election years has increased about 5% in the past 20 years, while the increase in non-presidential years has been about 10%. However, the percent casting primary ballots varies from 13% to 50% with no established trend over the years. The ratio of over twice as many Republican ballots to Democratic ballots has existed for many years in primary elections.

The Mayor and the majority of the Common Council have been Republican for at least 40 years, but the Democrats have steadily increased their seats in the Council so that the present ratio is 6 to 5 as against 8 to 3 in 1954. The fourth ward has had Democratic councilmen since the 1930's, the first ward has had one or two Democratic representatives in the Council for the past ten years, and a Democrat was elected in the third ward for the first time in 1964. The second ward remains largely Republican. There have not been any independent candidates for local office in the past 40 years.

POLITICAL PARTIES

The two major national political parties are the only ones organized for local politics in Plainfield. Each has a Municipal Committee composed of the county committeemen and committeewomen who reside in Plainfield. A party chairman chosen by the Committee for a one-year term administers the party's local activities and acts as its spokesman.

The functions of the Committee include encouraging candidates to run in the primary, promoting candidates for the general election, checking voting lists to aid in registering and getting out the vote, and acting as challengers at the polls. A committeeman or committeewoman also may hold any other public or party office.

A challenger is a representative for a candidate who polices the polling place to see that only those eligible to vote cast their ballots. He is appointed by the local party chairman and is issued a badge and a certificate by the County Board of Elections. The challenger also checks the voting lists to see that party members have voted.

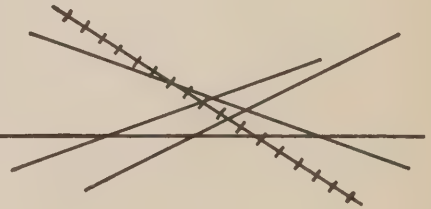
Most candidates on the local party primary slate are recommended by the Municipal Committee but it is illegal for the Committee to officially endorse any candidate for primary election. To become a candidate a citizen must be over 21, a resident of the district, ward, or municipality which he desires to represent, and file with the City Clerk a petition with a specified number of signatures of party members. Candidates for Mayor, Treasurer, Tax Collector and councilman-at-large require 50 signatures; ward councilmen need 25 signatures; and committeemen and committeewomen need 10 signatures.

Independent voters give up half their voting franchise by not registering with a party and voting in the primary election.

ELECTION INFORMATION

Information on candidates for local office and local government issues is available in the official sample ballot and in the local newspaper, **The Courier-News**, as well as through the League of Women Voters, party publicity and public meetings sponsored by various groups.

FINANCING LOCAL GOVERNMENT



"That it shall and may be lawful for the common council of said city to order and cause to be assessed and raised by tax, in any one year, such sum or sums of moneys as may be necessary for the support of the city poor, and such further sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars, as they shall deem expedient for the current expenses of said city."

So states the Charter of the City of Plainfield approved in 1872. Within two years this section was changed and today over eight million dollars is raised annually by taxation to pay for city and county government and public schools.

FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION

The State of New Jersey regulates the finances of local governments through the Division of Local Government in the State Department of the Treasury. The Division supervises the preparation of the budget and the filing of financial statements and audit reports.

The finances of Plainfield are under the supervision of the Supervisor of Municipal Finances and Accounts, who is appointed by the Common Council under civil service with a salary range of \$11,540-\$14,735. His duties are to keep records of all the city's financial accounts, supervise the payment of bills, keep the Common Council informed on the city's finances, supervise the preparation of the budget, and supervise and audit the accounts of city departments.

The other financial officials in Plainfield are the Treasurer, the Tax Assessor, the Tax Collector and the Purchasing Agent.

TREASURER

All local funds are in the custody of the Treasurer, a part-time official, who is elected for a term of five years and currently receives a salary of \$2,750.

Money received is deposited by the Treasurer in banks designated by the Common Council, earning interest at the established rate of the banks. Idle funds are invested in direct obligations of the United States Government with maturities not greater than 12 months from the date of purchase.

City monies are disbursed only by warrants drawn on the Treasurer by order of the Council. Such warrants are signed by the City Clerk as official auditor and the Treasurer.

TAX ASSESSOR

The Tax Assessor is appointed by the Common Council for a four-year term according to requirements for office established by the Council. The salary range for this office in 1965 was \$9,420 - \$12,030. He is aided by the Assistant to the Tax Assessor who is appointed for a two-year term by the Council. The Assessor determines the full true value of all real property and business personal property in the City of Plainfield and derives the assessments from this value.

By state law the assessed value of all property is to be determined annually on October 1st of the pre-tax year. Actually the value of most property does not change in one year, so that only property in which a change is indicated, such as by improvement or sale, is reassessed during the year. When a change in the value of a large portion of real estate is indicated, a complete revaluation is undertaken.

All property in the city was revalued in 1964 in preparation for 1965 taxes. The previous complete revaluation was in 1948. This revaluation was done under the supervision of the local Tax Assessor by a professional firm skilled in mass appraisal techniques. Buildings were measured against set standards on the basis of construction, condition, improvements, etc. Land value was based on an analysis of comparable vacant lots. For income-producing properties the value

also included the capitalization of net income produced by the property. The total values were then compared and reviewed in light of recent sales to determine the final estimate of market value. The current assessed valuation is 50% of the market value.

The 1965 assessed valuation of all property, real and personal, in Plainfield was \$133,623,697.

Distribution of Real Estate Ratables — 1965

PROPERTY	PERCENT
Residential	66.37%
Apartment buildings and garden apartments	8.70
Commercial	19.93
Industrial	3.47
Vacant land	1.53
	<hr/> 100.00%

Tax exempt property which includes schools, churches, government property, cemeteries and public property had a total taxable value of \$19,977,000 in 1965.

The books in the Assessor's office are open to the public. Appeals from assessments may be taken at any time to the Tax Assessor. If agreement cannot be reached an appeal may be filed with the County Board of Assessments on or before August 15th. Further appeals may be taken to the State Division of Tax Appeals.

COMMISSIONERS OF ASSESSMENTS

Property assessments for regional city improvements such as street widening, paving and sewers are determined by the Commissioners of Assessments who are independent of the Tax Assessor. The tax portion of each benefited property owner is paid to the Tax Collector over a specified period of time.

There are three commissioners appointed for three-year terms by the Mayor with Council approval.

BUDGET

Plainfield operates under a comprehensive annual budget which is balanced when adopted. The municipal budget covers the calendar year and is prepared for the Common Council by the Supervisor of Municipal Finances and Accounts. It includes all revenues and expenditures based on estimates of the various city departments.

The Council reviews the proposed municipal budget each year at the end of January on "Budget Sunday". The budget is approved at the first Council meeting in February, sent to the state Division of Local Government for approval, and published in the local paper at least ten days before the first Council meeting in March. At this meeting a public hearing is held after which the budget is adopted by the Common Council. Then it is filed with the state and the Union County Board of Taxation. The County Board computes Plainfield's total tax rate from the sum of the municipal budget, the school budget, and Plainfield's share of the county budget. (See the chapter on schools for details of school finance.)

Adoption of the budget is binding on the city administration; the Supervisor of Municipal Finances and Accounts administers the budget under Council jurisdiction. Appropriation power is centralized in the hands of the Council and it may shift budget items during the last two months of the calendar year.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

1965 Anticipated Revenue in the Municipal Budget

SOURCE	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Surplus revenue appropriated	\$1,100,000.00	19.2%
Miscellaneous revenue	1,329,439.11	23.2
Delinquent tax receipts	250,000.00	4.4
To be raised by taxation	3,042,970.31	53.2
	<hr/>	
	\$5,722,409.42	100.0%

Miscellaneous income includes such revenues as state aid, interest on investments, franchise taxes, gross receipts taxes, contract payments from other municipalities for the interceptor sewer, funds from the Housing Authority in lieu of taxes, contract payments from the Parking Authority, municipal court fines, building permits, and various licenses and fees. These sources of income are collected by the city officials to whom they pertain and turned over to the Treasurer.

Although still a relatively small source, income from the state has increased in the past ten years from \$72,253 to \$260,773. Except for second-class railroad property taxes, all state funds are grants-in-aid for education, school buildings, welfare, the library and roads. All taxes used by the local government are collected locally except for the second-class railroad property tax which is collected by the state and apportioned among the municipalities according to the amount of such property within their boundaries.

1965 Total General Appropriations in the Municipal Budget

ITEM	AMOUNT	
General government	\$ 444,002.00	
Public safety	1,916,506.00	
Streets and roads	396,273.00	
Sanitation	328,099.00	
Health and welfare	262,720.00	
Recreation and library	268,129.99	
Contingent	9,000.00	
	<hr/>	
Total operations	\$3,624,729.99	(42% for salaries and wages)
Capital improvements	10,000.00	
Municipal debt service	494,896.25	
Deferred charges and statutory expenditures	401,842.20	
	<hr/>	
Total for municipal purposes	\$4,531,468.44	
Local district school purposes		
(school debt service)	621,896.97	
Reserve for uncollected taxes	569,044.01	
	<hr/>	
Total general appropriations	\$5,722,409.42	

The approximate per capita cost of government was \$126 (\$67 of which was raised by taxes). Ten years ago in 1955 the cost of municipal government was \$3,364,715.29. Increases in personnel and salaries account for most of the increase in the operating cost of Plainfield's government.

Two types of reserve funds exist in the budget. There is a contingent fund of \$9,000 for unforeseen expenses and a much larger fund, built up since 1940 through a surplus in the amount reserved for uncollected taxes each year. The state requires that a specified amount be reserved for uncollected taxes but sets no maximum for this reserve. For several years Plainfield set aside 9.5% of the budget; this was reduced to 7.5% in 1964 and to 6.5% in 1965 to help reduce the tax rate in those years. Actually only a portion of this (3.54% in 1964) has been uncollected. The surplus reserve has often been used to pay for capital improvements instead of issuing bonds or borrowing money.

Dedicated revenues in the city are from dog licenses used for the Humane Society, the federal grant for the public library as an area library and fees collected by the Recreation Commission to carry out its program. These funds are not part of the municipal budget and are used according to law for specific purposes.

TAX COLLECTOR

Property taxes are collected by the Tax Collector who is elected every four years. After ten years in office he may ask for tenure on the election ballot. The current Tax Collector is on tenure. Other duties of the Tax Collector are mailing bills for taxes, mailing bills for special improvement assessments, conducting tax sales of properties with delinquent taxes (usually in December of each year), acting as tax search officer, and issuing removal permits required of all those changing their residence in the city. The Tax Collector's salary in 1965 was \$9,820.

The main source of income is the property tax, which supplies 75% of Plainfield's revenue. The tax rate in 1965 was \$6.42 per \$100 assessed valuation of real estate and \$9.40 for business personal property. The Union County Board of Taxation determines the tax rate by dividing the total amount to be raised by the amount of the assessed valuation. The total to be raised by taxation includes the local government's expenses plus the costs of the local public schools and Plainfield's share of the Union County budget.

1965 Distribution of Funds Raised by Property Taxation in Plainfield

Municipal government	\$2,541,165.29
Public schools (operating expenses and debt service)	5,147,482.97
Union County government (Plainfield's share)	936,134.42
Tax deductions allowed (veteran and senior citizens)	188,720.00
Total to be raised by taxation	\$8,813,502.68

Taxes are paid in four quarterly payments due on the first days of February, May, August, and November. Veterans receive tax credits of \$50 and citizens over 65 years with income under \$5,000 receive tax credits of \$80.

DEBTS

Municipal indebtedness is incurred only for financing major long range improvements. Borrowing to meet current expenses is illegal under state law and Plainfield does not borrow in anticipation of tax collections.

As of April 1965, the city's indebtedness was \$4,231,667. The school debt was \$3,769,000. Municipal indebtedness is limited by the state to 7.5% of the city's total assessed valuation of real property (average for preceding three years). Of this, 3.5% applies to city debt and 4% to school debt. To finance city improvements, the Council may issue municipal bonds within the 3.5% debt limit. For school construction, the Council must appropriate any amount requested by the Board of School Estimate so long as it does not increase total school debt beyond 1.5% of assessed valuation. School debt beyond 1.5% but not in excess of 4% may be incurred at the Council's discretion. School debt beyond 4% may be applied against the municipal debt limit of 3.5% by the Common Council, or the Council may refer this decision to public referendum.

Exceeding the debt limit of 7.5%, either for school or for health and welfare purposes, requires a local referendum and the respective consent of the Commissioner of Education or the State Board of Health and the approval of the Division of Local Government, State Department of the Treasury. A majority of the popular vote is necessary to pass such a referendum.

At present the city debt is 1.84% of the assessed valuation and the school debt is 1.64% which adds up to 3.48% of the total 7.5% debt limit. Only once has the debt limit for the city been exceeded. That was in 1955 when the school bond issue used up both the school limit and the municipal limit and caused Plainfield to exceed the total limit of 15% by 2.99%. A new state law passed in 1964 cut in half the percentages used to determine the debt limit. However, because the percentages are now based on the average equalized valuation of taxable real property for the past three years, the borrowing power is now approximately 50% more than the previous amount.

Plainfield is permitted by the State to issue both general obligation and revenue bonds. At present all of the city's bonds are general obligation serial bonds. A large portion of the revenue from the current bonds was used for construction of school buildings and the south side interceptor sewer.

ACCOUNTING, AUDITING, REPORTING

The Supervisor of Municipal Finances and Accounts functions as the local auditor and is in charge of keeping accounts and making financial reports. The City Clerk acts as the auditor in that his signature

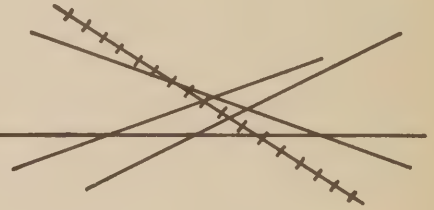
appears on checks for disbursement and he takes the bills and financial statements to the Council for approval. The Supervisor prepares the bills received by the city for Council approval and afterwards supervises the preparation of warrants for disbursement.

The city's financial accounts are audited annually by an independent firm of registered municipal accountants licensed by the state and this report is reviewed by the state Division of Local Government. Local officials must report their obligations and expenditures annually on standard report forms to the Supervisor of Municipal Finances and Accounts. He also may audit the financial records of any city department at any time.

PURCHASING AGENT

Plainfield has a central purchasing department with a Purchasing Agent appointed by the Council under civil service who makes all purchases for the city. According to state requirements, purchases over \$2,500 with certain exceptions must be advertised for bids on an open competitive basis with specifications. The city also receives bids on some equipment and supplies costing less than \$2,500.

PUBLIC PROTECTION



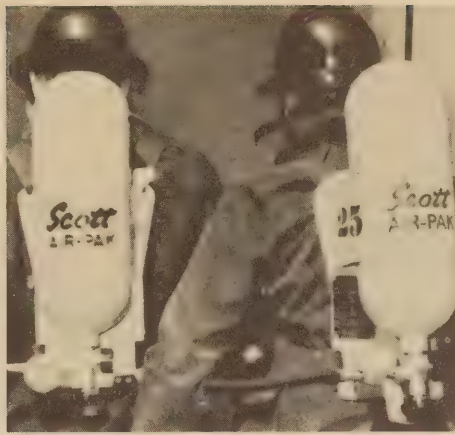
Plainfield's Police and Fire departments, Municipal Court, and Civil Defense and Disaster Control Council share the responsibility for keeping the city a safe, secure and peaceful place in which to live. Theirs is a round-the-clock, round-the-calendar job in which they strive to keep their methods, equipment, personnel and training up-to-date and equal to constantly changing conditions.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Plainfield has had fire protection since April 1827 when the "Engine Company of Plainfield" was organized; its first fire engine, a hand-operated pumper, was purchased secondhand for \$219. A fire alarm system was installed in the city in 1890 and fire hydrants followed two years later.

The Fire Department now has 122 men, three stations, 13 pieces of equipment in active service and an alarm and signal system that enables it to respond to fire calls anywhere in the city within minutes.

The Fire Department is responsible to the Common Council through the Council's Fire Committee, whose five members are appointed by the



Council President. The Committee meets monthly to consider matters concerning operation of the Department and in turn presents to the Council those matters requiring full Council action.

Personnel

The 1965 ranks, number of personnel and salaries in the Fire Department are:

RANK	NUMBER	SALARY
Chief	1	\$9,420 - \$12,030
Deputy Chief	4	7,690 - 9,820
Captain	7	6,715 - 8,575
Lieutenant	18	5,865 - 7,490
Private	92	5,480 - 7,000

All members of the Department are recruited and promoted through state civil service competitive examinations. The Chief is chosen after promotion through the ranks of the Department and certification by the Civil Service Commission.

In 1963 the Department began a 42-hour work week with each man serving a three-day tour of duty (8 a.m.-6 p.m.), a 72-hour free period, a three-day tour (6 p.m.-8 a.m.) and 72 hours off.

Qualifications for firemen are set by both state and local statutes. Applicants must be between 21 and 30 years of age, citizens of the United States and residents of the city for at least two years. (The Common Council may waive the residency requirement in individual cases to permit employment of police and fireman residing within five miles of the fire or police headquarters.) Each must be in perfect physical condition, at least five feet, six inches tall, weigh a minimum 135 pounds, be a high school graduate, be of good moral character and have a driver's license.

All new firemen begin with a three-week basic training course under the supervision of the training officer who is a deputy chief. After this initial instruction, the recruit is assigned to a company and receives continuous in-service training, as do all firemen.

Divisions

The Fire Department is organized into five divisions for administration, fire prevention, fire control, communications and signal systems. The Fire Chief, who is executive head of the Department, carries out his duties through the **Administration Division**.

The **Bureau of Fire Prevention** enforces the Fire Prevention Code and carries out an extensive educational program. The Fire Prevention Code includes all laws and ordinances covering storage and use of explosives and flammables, installation of fire protection equipment, regulation of fire escapes, means and adequacy of exit facilities and investigation of cause, origin and circumstances of fires. The fire limits encompass approximately the downtown business section, where more stringent regulations are enforced than in the rest of the city.

The fire prevention program includes demonstrations, lectures and courses given on request by its speakers' bureau. The speakers are helped by visual aids such as slides, films, chemical demonstrations, and a scale model house built by the Bureau to demonstrate fire hazards. Fire Prevention Week, Clean-Up Week and the Sparky Division, with a membership of 200 children, are also part of its educational program.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention was rated second in the state by the National Fire Prevention Association in 1963 and 1964. A Fire Department officer heads the Bureau as chief inspector and is aided by three other firemen as inspectors.

The **Fire Control Division** is directly concerned with extinguishing fires occurring within the limits of the city and the protection of lives and property. This division is organized into six companies, one for each major piece of fire apparatus. Four companies are located at Headquarters Station, with one company at each of the other two stations. Each company, headed by a captain, has three lieutenants

and twelve privates. It also does related fire prevention inspections and educational work jointly with the Bureau of Fire Prevention.

The **Communication Division** receives and transmits alarms and handles telephone and radio communications with Department offices and vehicles. This division is under the direction of the chief officer on duty with the Fire Control Division. Four privates are assigned as alarm operators.

The **Police and Fire Signal System** is the division which installs and maintains all fire alarm equipment and traffic control equipment in the city. This division is composed of five civilian civil service employees: one superintendent, one assistant superintendent and three linemen.

Buildings and Equipment

Headquarters Station is located at 315 Central Avenue. Number 3 Engine Station is housed at 1143-45 W. Third Street and Number 4 Engine Station at 1015 South Avenue. Two additional stations are recommended by the Fire Chief to be located in the northeast and in the south-central sections of the city.

In active service are four 1,000-gallon-per-minute pumping engines, two aerial ladder trucks (one 100-foot and one 85-foot), an emergency squad car, one chief's car, three Bureau of Fire Prevention vehicles and one utility vehicle. In reserve are a 1,000-gallon-per-minute pumping engine and one 65-foot aerial ladder truck. Two vehicles are assigned to the signal division. The oldest piece of equipment, now in reserve, was purchased in 1947.

Community Cooperation

New Jersey law provides for a mutual aid system on a county basis with neighboring fire departments. Plainfield is the coordinating station for Union County. A community fire department requiring additional equipment in an emergency contacts the Plainfield Fire Department, which then either assigns another local fire department to assist or sends some of its own units, depending on the location of the emergency. Also, because of Plainfield's location near other counties, the Plainfield Fire Department has a "gentleman's agreement" with South Plainfield, North Plainfield, Dunellen and Piscataway for joint assistance.

Plainfield is rated Class "B" by the Fire Insurance Rating Organization of New Jersey, an organization set up according to principles established by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Of the 567 municipalities in New Jersey two are in Class "A" and 28 in Class "B." The rating is determined not only by the operation, organization and performance of a city's fire department, but also by the size, age and condition of its water main system. The fire insurance premiums paid by property owners in a municipality are based on this rating classification.



Old Fire House, East 2nd Street



POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department has expanded from the original chief and two assistants authorized by the Common Council on June 24, 1870, to its present authorized force of 95 policemen under the Chief. From the 18 pea whistles, 3 badges marked "Police" and 15 badges marked "Special Police" of that first year, the Department's equipment has grown to include 22 vehicles of various types and the latest in automated and mechanized apparatus, and even special means of radiological detection.

The Police Department is under the control of the Board of Police, consisting of five members from the Common Council, the Mayor and the Council President. The Board meets monthly with the Chief of Police and makes recommendations to the Common Council.

Personnel

The 1965 ranks, number of employees and salaries in the Police Department are:

RANK	NUMBER	SALARY
Chief	1	\$9,420 - \$12,030
Captain	3	7,690 - 9,820
Lieutenant	8	6,715 - 8,575
Sergeant	9	6,275 - 8,015
Detective	4	5,865 - 7,490
Patrolman	62	5,480 - 7,000

All appointments and promotions in the Department are made after competitive examinations conducted by the State Civil Service Commission. The Chief is selected from the next lower rank, captain. He must have been promoted through civil service from patrolman to sergeant to lieutenant and to captain with at least one year's service in each grade.

Qualifications for policemen are the same as those for firemen, except that the minimum height for policemen is five feet, seven inches.

Civilian personnel of the Department include clerks, maintenance staff, school guards and a matron. Of the 50 civilians employed in 1965, 43 were school guards.

Divisions

In 1965 the Police Department was reorganized into a new system recommended by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, after a local survey made by its Field Service Division. The Chief of Police is executive head of the Department which is divided into three divisions, each under the command of a captain. They are the Uniformed, Criminal Investigation and Service divisions. In addition, there is a Planning, Training, Personnel and Inspection Section under the supervision of a lieutenant who is directly responsible to the Chief.

The **Uniformed Division** includes the Patrol and Traffic sections. The Patrol Section is charged with 24-hour patrolling of the city, preliminary investigation of all complaints, protection of life and property, and enforcement of laws and ordinances. The downtown area of Plainfield is patrolled on foot and the entire city is patrolled on a one-man-to-a-car basis by 13 autos. The city is divided into seven police districts for patrolling. Staggered shifts insure continuous police coverage.

The Traffic Section engineers and enforces traffic matters. Traffic safety is promoted through strict motor vehicle law enforcement, establishment of special accident investigation squads, engineering studies to eliminate hazards, bicycle licensing and inspection, traffic signs and road markings, and school lectures. This section carries out most of the work of the Traffic and Parking Commission, an advisory body. (See chapter on Municipal Services.) School guards are under the jurisdiction of this section.

The **Criminal Investigation Division** includes the detectives and the Juvenile Bureau. The Detective Section completes the investigation of all crimes and prepares the cases for court, serves warrants, conducts surveillance where law violations are suspected and makes many of the arrests.

The Juvenile Bureau was formed in 1963 to investigate juvenile offenses, handle juvenile court appearances, and to carry out crime prevention programs. All youthful offenders appear in conference with a member of the Bureau, usually with their parents present. After the investigation is completed, formal complaints may be filed with the Union County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. In 1964 formal complaints were filed for 38% of the 901 cases handled by the Bureau. When confinement is necessary, the youths are held in the Juvenile Center in Elizabeth.

The crime prevention programs of the Juvenile Bureau include work with offenders and their parents to prevent repetition of the offenses, and cooperation with other agencies such as schools, the Recreation

Department, the Union County Probation Department, the Union County Bureau of Children's Services, the Youth Guidance Council as well as with storekeepers.

The **Service Division** has specialists in identification and photography, and is responsible for jail operation, the radio control center, the public complaint desk, upkeep of the station, and all records.

The Planning, Training, Personnel and Inspection Section is in charge of recruit training and continued in-service training under the direction of a training officer. All applicants, before permanent appointment, must pass a course of training approved by the State Training Commission. The Union County Police Chiefs Association's training schools, with a curriculum approved by the State Training Commission, are used for training recruits. Schools run by the Federal Bureau of Investigation are used for in-service training in technical police subjects. There are specialists in photography and fingerprinting, traffic engineering, juvenile delinquency, training and investigation. Several policemen are trained in radiological defense work and in time the entire department will receive this training.



Police Headquarters and Equipment.

The Police Department moved into its new headquarters building at Watchung Avenue and East Fourth Street in 1965. Besides offices for the various divisions, sections and officials, this building contains the municipal court, violations bureau, jail, a booking desk, police garage, police library, a classroom, an indoor pistol range, patrolmen's "shape-up" room (where policemen gather for roll call and assignment), and the civil defense control center.

The local jail is used for detention of those awaiting bail, bond or appearance in court. There are eleven individual cells, three of which are for women. Two multi-purpose rooms, called "tanks," can be used to hold large numbers of people. Prisoners requiring more than temporary detention are transferred directly to the county jail in Elizabeth. Juveniles are usually sent to the Juvenile Center in Elizabeth, and only rarely are they detained in the local jail.

New and proposed equipment in the police headquarters include a communications control center, a traffic control board and a television monitor system for the jail.

Besides its 13 patrol cars, the Department owns three unmarked sedans for the Chief and the detectives, a station wagon for the Juvenile Bureau, one patrol wagon, two motorcycles, and two pick-up trucks for traffic maintenance work. All are equipped with two-way radios except the patrol wagon and trucks.

MUNICIPAL COURT

A branch of the state-wide uniform court system of New Jersey, the Municipal Court has jurisdiction over criminal and traffic offenses committed within the city limits of Plainfield. Regular court sessions are held each Monday and Thursday, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Municipal Courtroom located in the police headquarters building. An evening session is held Mondays at 7:30 p.m. to hear uncontested traffic matters.

The Court handles motor vehicle violations and such offenses as violations of local ordinances (health, dog licensing, building or zoning, etc.) and offenses under the state Disorderly Persons Act (gambling, assaults, non-support, etc.). It also acts as preliminary hearing agent in such serious crimes as murder, robbery and arson, to determine if there is enough evidence to hold an accused for the Grand Jury. In 1964, the Court handled 37,794 cases and collected fines and court costs amounting to \$151,516.

Municipal Court decisions can be appealed to the County Court in Elizabeth. This must be done within ten days of conviction. Cases involving offenders under 18 years of age are tried by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in Elizabeth. However, traffic offenses by juveniles who have New Jersey driver's licenses are handled by the Municipal Court.

Presiding over the court is a part-time magistrate who is appointed by the Mayor with approval of the Common Council and serves for a three-year term. He receives a salary of \$8,000 plus a stenographic allowance of \$1,000. He must be a resident of Plainfield and be a practicing attorney with his office in this city.

The Clerk of the Municipal Court is appointed by the Common Council under civil service. Deputy clerks also may be appointed by the Council when needed. The Clerk is responsible for maintaining court records and is in charge of the Violations Bureau, which collects parking and traffic fines.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel acts as prosecutor in the Municipal Court. (See chapter on Structure and Functions of Government.)

YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNCIL AND JUVENILE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The Youth Guidance Council serves as a coordinator of community organizations concerned with the welfare of children and youth. The Juvenile Conference Committee assists the work of the Union County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Both of these agencies exist according to permissive state statutes passed in 1947.

The members of the Youth Guidance Council are appointed by the Mayor with approval of the Common Council for three-year terms. The seven members include a representative from each of the following: the school system, the Police Department and the Common Council. They advise and inform community and government organizations working with young people; their aim is to create better community relations, improve facilities and provide necessary guidance. It was on their advice that the Juvenile Bureau was set up in the Police Department.

The Juvenile Conference Committee meets directly with children and their parents upon referral by the Judge of the Union County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, the schools, or a social worker. After conferences with these children who have committed minor first offenses or who are maladjusted, the committee makes recommendations for rehabilitation. It is aided in its investigation by a part-time social worker.

Although the five-member Juvenile Conference Committee receives its financing through the Youth Guidance Council's budget (which receives its funds from the city), it is appointed by the Judge of the Union County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. The members, who are residents of Plainfield, receive no pay and are citizens currently working with and directly concerned with the youth of the community.

CIVIL DEFENSE

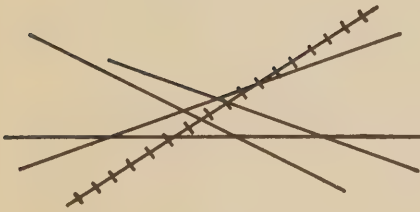
Responsibility for Plainfield's readiness to meet disaster and emergency situations, be they of a peacetime, accidental or war-alert nature, lies with the Civil Defense Council. It is a 15-member organization representing a cross-section of all areas of protective endeavor. The members of the Council and its director are appointed by the Mayor. In the event of a major disaster, the Council must be ready to activate the city Civil Defense and Disaster Control Center now located in the new Police Headquarters. With its modern communication system (teletype radio is its latest addition) now in operation, it is prepared to coordinate the activities of all protective agencies, such as fire, police, rescue, Red Cross, welfare, hospital, public utilities, transportation and recreation facilities.

The Plainfield Civil Defense and Disaster Control program during 1964 was centered on training in medical self-help, shelter management, radiological defense and the updating of the shelter program in strict compliance with federal and state requirements and recommendations.

Two courses in shelter management instruction were organized in collaboration with Rutgers University — one at Muhlenberg Hospital and the other at Veterans Administration Hospital, Lyons. A total of 35 instructors were trained and certified by Rutgers University. A special Shelter Management Committee, appointed by the Mayor, was organized to assume responsibility for continuous training and utilization of all stocked shelters in Plainfield.

Throughout Plainfield certain buildings display the orange and black sign with the C-D symbol, which designates them as public shelters. Up to 1965, 19,211 spaces were stocked and additional buildings were surveyed so that shelter could be provided for every Plainfield resident.

The Council's activities are financed through the municipal budget and matching funds received from the federal government.



MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The various services needed by our community are supplied by both private companies and the municipal government. Private companies provide water, gas, electricity and street lights, buses, and trains, while the City of Plainfield builds and maintains streets and sewers, regulates the flow of traffic, provides parking and plants shade trees.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works is responsible for the design and supervision of street and sewer improvements, maintenance of streets and sewers, and planting and care of trees and shrubs in Plainfield. The Department is under the control of the Public Works Committee of the Common Council.

Heading this department is the City Engineer, who is appointed for a two-year term by the Mayor with the consent of the Common Council. The salary range for this position is \$13,215-\$16,880 annually. He must hold a license as a professional engineer and land surveyor and have a background in municipal engineering. Approximately 70 people are employed by the Department.

The Department of Public Works is composed of five divisions: Engineering Division, Streets and Sewer Division, Equipment Maintenance Division, Sewage Pumping Station Division, and Shade Tree Maintenance Division.

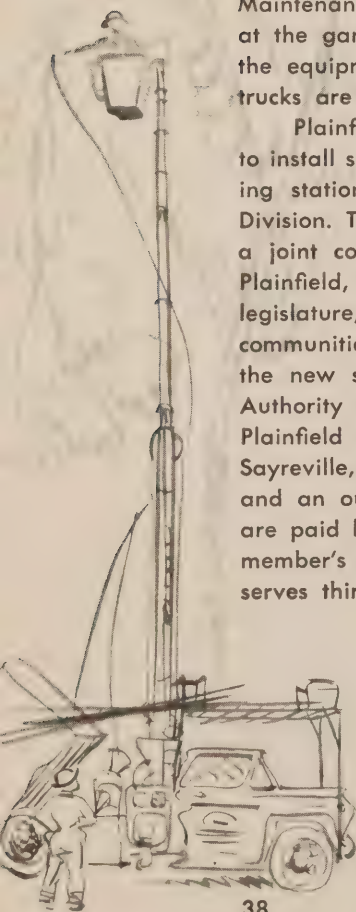
The Engineering Division studies, designs and supervises the improvement and extension of streets and sewers. Engineering specifications for major construction are prepared or supervised by this Division and presented to the Common Council which then, by ordinance, permits construction contracts to be let to private firms on the basis of competitive bidding.

Streets and Sewers

There are 99 miles of paved streets and seven miles of unpaved streets in Plainfield. The Plainfield sewerage system has 114 miles of sanitary sewers and 45 miles of storm sewers. Street cleaning, snow removal, pavement maintenance, sewerage maintenance, street lighting and placement of street name signs are the responsibility of the Streets and Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works. It also maintains the state route 28 which runs through Plainfield. Union County takes care of the county roads in Plainfield, which are East Front Street from Watchung Avenue to Terrill Road, East and West Seventh Streets, Park Avenue from Ninth Street south to the city line, and Terrill Road.

Road and sewer maintenance equipment owned by the Department is housed at the city garage, 745 South Avenue. The Equipment Maintenance Division maintains and services practically all vehicles at the garage where parts, gasoline and oil are obtained. Although the equipment is adequate for most road maintenance needs, extra trucks are rented for snow removal.

Plainfield was one of the first municipalities in the United States to install sewage collection and disposal facilities. Three sewage pumping stations in Plainfield are run by the Sewage Pumping Station Division. Today Plainfield's sewers and pumping stations are part of a joint collection system under the control of the Joint Meeting of Plainfield, North Plainfield and Dunellen. Formed in 1910 by the state legislature, this co-operative body also serves by contract five other communities. It operated a sewage disposal plant until 1958 when the new sewage treatment unit of the Middlesex County Sewerage Authority began operation. This Authority was created in 1950 and Plainfield became a member in 1953. Besides the treatment unit in Sayreville, it also financed through bonds a new trunk sewer main and an outfall extending into Raritan Bay. The Authority's expenses are paid by the members on a cost sharing basis according to each member's proportional use of the Authority's facilities. The Authority serves thirteen communities and eight industrial firms.



Sidewalks

It is the duty of homeowners to maintain sidewalks which are to be kept at grade level and free from growing plants. The City Engineer may notify homeowners or occupants of violations and they may be penalized for not correcting the conditions within the specified time.

Snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks in the fire zone (roughly the business section of the city) within six hours and from sidewalks in other zones within 24 hours after snowfall or formation. In case the snowfall or formation occurs during the night, the hours for removal begin at sunrise. Penalties for violations are prescribed in the city ordinances.

Clean-Up Campaign

Every Spring the Department of Public Works conducts a city-wide clean-up campaign. Department trucks canvass the city during a four-week period to pick up and dispose of articles placed at the curb by residents. Time for collection in each ward is announced in the local newspaper.

Shade Tree Maintenance

The Shade Tree Maintenance Division is charged with the maintenance of the approximately 28,000 city-owned trees in Plainfield. Trees are periodically trimmed and sprayed; dead, dangerous and diseased trees are removed; sidewalk conditions caused by tree growth are corrected wherever possible (the homeowner being responsible for lifting and repairing the sidewalk).

Approximately 200 new trees are planted annually. A homeowner may ask that the Shade Tree Maintenance Division plant new trees along the street in front of his home by writing a letter to the City Engineer.

A superintendent under the supervision of the City Engineer carries out the work of the Division with the aid of five employees. The Division has its own equipment which is housed and maintained at the city garage.

SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

The Shade Tree Committee advises the City Engineer and the Public Works Committee of the Common Council on the care and planting of trees and shrubs. They draw up an annual program of planting and maintenance and prepare the annual operating budget for the Shade Tree Division. The Committee has three members appointed for three-year terms each by the Mayor with approval by the Council.



BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Beautification Committee is a special committee created by the Mayor. There is no specific ordinance governing its operation, and no councilmanic approval is needed for the appointment of its members. At present the committee consists of a chairman appointed by the Mayor and 14 other members appointed by the chairman.

From its small budget (\$500 in 1964) it purchases and arranges for the planting of shrubs and trees on city property such as Library Park, the City Hall grounds, and the triangle at Central Avenue and Front Street.

The Committee fosters the improvement of the city's appearance by working with service clubs, garden clubs, businesses, etc., and by making suggestions to the Planning Board and other city agencies.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMISSION

The Traffic and Parking Commission studies traffic, parking and traffic safety problems and makes recommendations for improvements to the Police Board. Such things as placement and timing of traffic lights, placement of traffic control signs and street markings, location of on-street parking meters, and routing of buses come under the advisory jurisdiction of this Commission. After approval by the Police Board, and in some cases by the state, the changes are carried out by the Traffic Division of the Police Department, except that traffic lights are installed by a division of the Fire Department. The funds for such changes come from the Commission's own budget.

The Traffic and Parking Commission consists of twelve members, one appointed from the Common Council by its president, one from the Planning Board appointed by the Mayor, and ten citizens appointed by the Mayor with confirmation by the Common Council. Not more than three of these may be city officials or employees.

Recent programs put into effect through the recommendations of the Commission are:

1. Traffic flow plans to improve the flow of traffic in the downtown area by the use of lane marking, elimination of meters near intersections or where vision is blocked, and the moving of bus stops.
2. More realistic speed zones on main arteries by increasing the speed limits on these streets.
3. An overnight (2 a.m. to 6 a.m.) parking ban in the business district and on other designated streets to facilitate snow removal, street cleaning and the movement of emergency equipment.
4. A traffic light control panel in the new police station.

PARKING AUTHORITY

The Parking Authority of the City of Plainfield was formed in 1955 by city ordinance in accordance with a New Jersey law authorizing municipalities to form public authorities for specific purposes. The

Authority is made up of five commissioners who are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Common Council to serve five years without compensation. All operations of the Authority are under the direction of a manager who is appointed by the commissioners. The collection of coins from the meters and the installation and maintenance of all facilities are carried on under the manager's supervision by a staff of seven full-time employees, including three meter-maids.

The Parking Authority is an autonomous body whose budget is separate from that of the city. It finances the procurement and development of land and the installation of meters through the sale of revenue bonds. The sale of these bonds is not included in the city's debt and therefore does not limit the ability of the city to borrow money for other purposes. The Authority is self-supporting and the income from meters is used to meet the expenses of operation and maintenance of the facilities and to pay off the bonded indebtedness incurred in purchasing and setting up the lots.

Plainfield has ten municipally-owned parking lots which account for approximately 60% of the available metered parking spaces in the business section of the city. The on-street meters provide parking time from 24 minutes on the red meters to a maximum of two hours in the outlying areas of the business section. The meters in the off-street lots are tailored to the needs of the area which they serve. The lots adjoining Front Street have time limits of 2½ or 3½ hours, while lots further from the heart of the center of the shopping area have a time limit of five hours. Lots which are maintained to meet the needs of commuters have spaces with a time limit of 13 hours. The municipal parking lots are augmented by a number of privately owned lots which are operated by merchants of the city.

Although the parking facilities in Plainfield seem to be adequate for the shopping public, the Parking Authority is ready to add additional space when needed. Currently more space is needed for the accommodation of all-day parkers who work in the business area.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

The transit facilities which serve Plainfield are all privately owned and operated. Bus service within the city and to points outside are provided by the Plainfield Transit Company, Public Service Coordinated Transport, and Somerset Bus Company. Rail transportation is provided by the Central Railroad Company of New Jersey which has four stations in Plainfield. The Reading Railroad also uses the Jersey Central tracks for carrying freight. The bus companies take care of their own operating expenses, but the railroad is subsidized by the State of New Jersey. There are many residents who commute to New York City by bus or rail, the time of the trip being approximately one hour.

Transit facilities are regulated by the New Jersey Board of Public Utility Commissioners which establishes rates, frequency of service and routes. A utility may not abandon operations without the authorization of the Public Utility Commissioners.

The community is served by Newark Airport, which is operated and maintained by the Port of New York Authority, and Hadley Airport in South Plainfield, which serves small, privately owned planes.

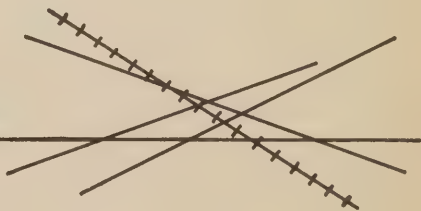
United States highways 1 and 22, the Garden State Parkway and the New Jersey Turnpike are all within a short driving distance of the city.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Gas, electricity and water are supplied to Plainfield residents by two privately-owned companies, the Public Service Gas and Electric Company and the Elizabethtown Water Company. All utilities in New Jersey are controlled by the State Department of Public Utilities. Comprehensive public utility legislation enacted in 1911 created the New Jersey Board of Public Utility Commissioners which is responsible for establishing utility rates, quality of service, adequacy of facilities and issuance of securities.

A franchise tax is levied against utility companies for use of streets and other public property. The tax rate is generally five percent of the gross receipts of the company.

EDUCATION



Plainfield took an early lead in the state of New Jersey in providing public schools for its children. The first public school in the state consisted of the two schoolrooms set up in August 1847 by the board of trustees of the newly formed township and by Charles H. Stillman, its first Superintendent of Schools.

Since that time the city has kept pace with constant growth and ever-expanding population by erecting new schools and replacing or modifying older buildings. In addition, changes in the over-all educational structure have been made to meet new needs and changes in the school enrollment at different age levels.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Education in New Jersey is a state responsibility which is administered by the local school district. The local Board of Education sets the policy for Plainfield within the framework of state rules and



regulations. There is also a Union County Superintendent of Schools, appointed by and responsible to the State Department of Education, who helps local administrators serve their schools and communities more effectively.

The members of the Board of Education are appointed by the Mayor for five-year terms and serve without salary. These appointments do not have to be approved by the Common Council. The Board consists of five members who must be United States citizens and residents of Plainfield for at least two years immediately preceding their appointments.

The Board acts in both an administrative and advisory capacity, setting the general tone and policy for the entire school system. Its main duties and powers are to assemble the teaching, administrative and operating staffs; to provide, maintain and insure buildings and facilities; to approve a program of studies; and to formulate the school budget. From time to time the Board may appoint lay committees to study and advise on major problems and assist in determining the needs and wishes of the community.

Regular Board meetings are held at 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month (except August) in the Board Room of the Administration Building at 504 Madison Avenue. The public is encouraged to attend, and meetings are reported in the local newspaper. Copies of the agenda are provided at each meeting, a discussion or explanation of some phase of the learning program is presented, and the floor is opened to public participation. The Board is required by law to publish an annual report of the condition of schools and other properties and an itemized account of board expenditures and finances.

The local Superintendent of Schools is appointed annually by the Board of Education. Under the 1964/65 salary schedule, his salary is \$19,500. Professional qualifications required are a master's degree, certification by the state, three years' experience as a school administrator, and 32 hours of study in the field of administration and supervision. The Superintendent of Schools is the chief executive officer of the Board of Education and its professional advisor. While not a member of the Board or allowed to vote on its decisions, he may attend and speak at all meetings and is responsible for the over-all leadership in carrying out policies of the Board as well as coordinating



and administering the program of the school system. Some of his related duties entail recommending and preparing lists of textbooks and materials for the Board, supervising instruction, and advising teachers and principals in procedures, methods and materials of instruction.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Responsibility for local financial support for the schools rests with the Board of School Estimate, a five-member body composed of the Mayor, two councilmen selected by the Council, and two Board of Education members, traditionally the president and vice-president. The schools' annual budget is made for the fiscal year July 1 to June 30 and is prepared more than six months in advance in order to be sent to the county along with the municipal budget, which is based on the calendar year. Budgets are prepared for the Board of Education by the Superintendent and the Business Manager; estimated expenditures are based on recommendations of the school personnel. The Board of Education makes final revisions and submits the budget to the Board of School Estimate, which in turn submits the final budget to the Common Council for ratification.

Sources of Revenue

Money to operate the schools comes primarily from three sources: city taxes on property, tuition charges to students living outside Plainfield, and state aid. This revenue, budgeted for the year 1965/66 is:

SOURCE	ANTICIPATED REVENUE	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Free balance	\$ 13,245	.2%
Federal aid	3,000	.1
State aid	623,778	11.7
Tuition	5,000	.1
Miscellaneous	9,000	.2
District (city) taxes	4,676,553	87.7
Total revenue	\$5,330,576	100.0%

Other revenue matters, such as provision for increasing funds by school bond issues, are discussed in the chapter on finance.

State Aid

Financial aid for general operating expenses and certain specified purposes in the total amount of \$623,778 is expected to be received from the state in the 1965/66 school year. This consists of the following items:

ITEM	AMOUNT
General formula aid	\$551,007
Transportation aid	23,267
Home Instruction aid	7,941
Special class and tuition aid for retarded and handicapped pupils	22,000
Aid for assistance to emotionally maladjusted pupils	18,025
Atypical pupil aid for sending some handicapped children to classes outside our district (one-half tuition cost)	1,538
Total state aid	\$623,778

General formula aid is computed according to a complicated formula based on local financial ability to support local schools. For Plainfield this aid was \$57.38 per pupil in average daily enrollment in 1964/65.

Federal Aid

The receipt of about \$3,000 in federal funds is anticipated for 1965/66 as the result of participation in the National Defense Education Act program under Titles III and V.

Expenditures

Expenditures for the school year 1965/66 can be classified in this way:

ITEM	AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Administration	\$ 159,518	3.0%
Instruction	4,044,882	75.9
Attendance and child service	16,682	.3
Health service	78,305	1.5
Pupil transportation	65,430	1.2
Operation (custodial, supplies, utilities, etc.)	507,783	9.5
Maintenance	247,022	4.6
Fixed charges (pensions, insurance, etc.)	125,380	2.4
Student body activities	37,554	.7
Community services	10,700	.2
Capital outlay	32,983	.6
Evening school for foreign born	4,337	.1
Total appropriations	\$5,330,576	100.0%

Cost per pupil is calculated only after all of the year's actual expenditures are known. Consequently the latest figures available are those for 1963/64 when the average cost per pupil was \$500.43, not including costs for summer school, capital outlay, debt service, or evening school for the foreign born.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

In September 1965 the Plainfield school system provided eight elementary schools serving grades K-4, two fifth/sixth grade schools, two special schools for retarded children, two junior high schools serving grades 7-9 and one senior high school for grades 10-12. The fifth/sixth grade schools and one of the special schools also have kindergartens.

This new organizational structure, the "Fifth-Sixth Grade Plan," was adopted in August 1965 after the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that the previous "Sixth Grade Plan" did not go far enough toward providing racial balance in the city's schools. Under that plan one elementary school, Washington, had served all of the city's sixth grade students.

In 1961 a lay advisory committee was appointed by the Board of Education to examine the racial imbalance in the elementary schools. After a study by the committee and a group of professional experts, several recommendations were made to correct the situation, particularly in the Washington School zone. In 1963 the New Jersey State

Commissioner of Education ordered that the Board put into effect a plan to correct the racial imbalance in Washington School. Thereupon the local Board of Education proposed and put into effect the "Sixth Grade Plan." In 1964 the State Board of Education upheld the Commissioner in his decision to permit the Plainfield Board to adopt the "Sixth Grade Plan." However, as a result of an appeal by dissatisfied parents the New Jersey Supreme Court in June 1965 decided that this plan was inadequate for achieving racial balance and directed the Commissioner of Education to take appropriate action. The Plainfield Board of Education then devised the "Fifth-Sixth Grade Plan" to comply with this ruling.

The "Fifth-Sixth Grade Plan" contains a proposal to be carried out in September 1968 when the present high school will be remodeled to provide classrooms for another K-4 or 1-4 center, a third fifth and sixth grade center, and special classes now in Bryant School. Use of Bryant School would be discontinued and racial balance in the Stillman zone would be improved.

ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE

New Jersey state law requires that all children between the ages of six and sixteen attend school unless they are physically or mentally unable to do so, and a minimum of 180 school days per year is required. Pupils are admitted to kindergarten provided they are five years of age on or before December 31 of the school year of entrance.

In the past ten years school population has grown from 6,700 to 9,270. The following chart shows the enrollment at each age level and the estimates for projected enrollment based on current enrollment in lower grades and a census of pre-school children who intend to enter public schools.

SCHOOLS	ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1964	ESTIMATE OF PROJECTED ENROLLMENT IN 1966/67
Elementary (12 schools)	5,533	5,624
Junior High (2 schools)	1,891	2,063
Senior High (1 school)	1,846	1,757
Total	9,270	9,444

TEACHING STAFF

The professional certified staff in 1964/65 consisted of 471 persons including teachers, principals, supervisors, librarians, and the Superintendent of Schools.

New teachers are recruited by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Schools and are subject to approval by the Board of Education. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree, be United States citizens or possess first naturalization papers and be certified by the State Board of Examiners. Substitutes are drawn from the list

of available substitute teachers approved by the Board of Education and by the County Superintendent.

Applicants for positions as school principals are investigated by the Superintendent of Schools who makes recommendations to the Board of Education. The basic requirement for principals is a permanent New Jersey certificate in administration. Elementary principals' salaries for 1964/65 range from \$9,400 to \$13,650; salaries of the two junior high school principals are \$11,750 and \$12,400; and that of the senior high school principal is \$15,116.

Teachers' salaries are the largest item in the school budget, comprising 75% of the total sum. The salary scale for each professional level in 1964/65 is as follows:

DEGREE	NUMBER OF TEACHERS	SALARY RANGE
B. A. or B. S.	331	\$5,100 - \$8,750
M. A. or M. S.	118	5,400 - 9,050
Ph. D. or Ed. D.	22	5,700 - 9,350

Salary increases are on a step basis. In a survey made in 1964 by the New Jersey Education Association, teachers' salaries in Plainfield averaged \$6,800. The Union County average was \$6,854, ranging from \$6,500 in Rahway to \$7,400 in Union.

All teachers belong to the Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund, an employee contributory plan which operates jointly with Federal Social Security. Under state law a teacher receives tenure upon teaching the first day of his fourth year in the same school district. After tenure is established a teacher may be discharged only upon proof of serious cause. The compulsory retirement age is 65.

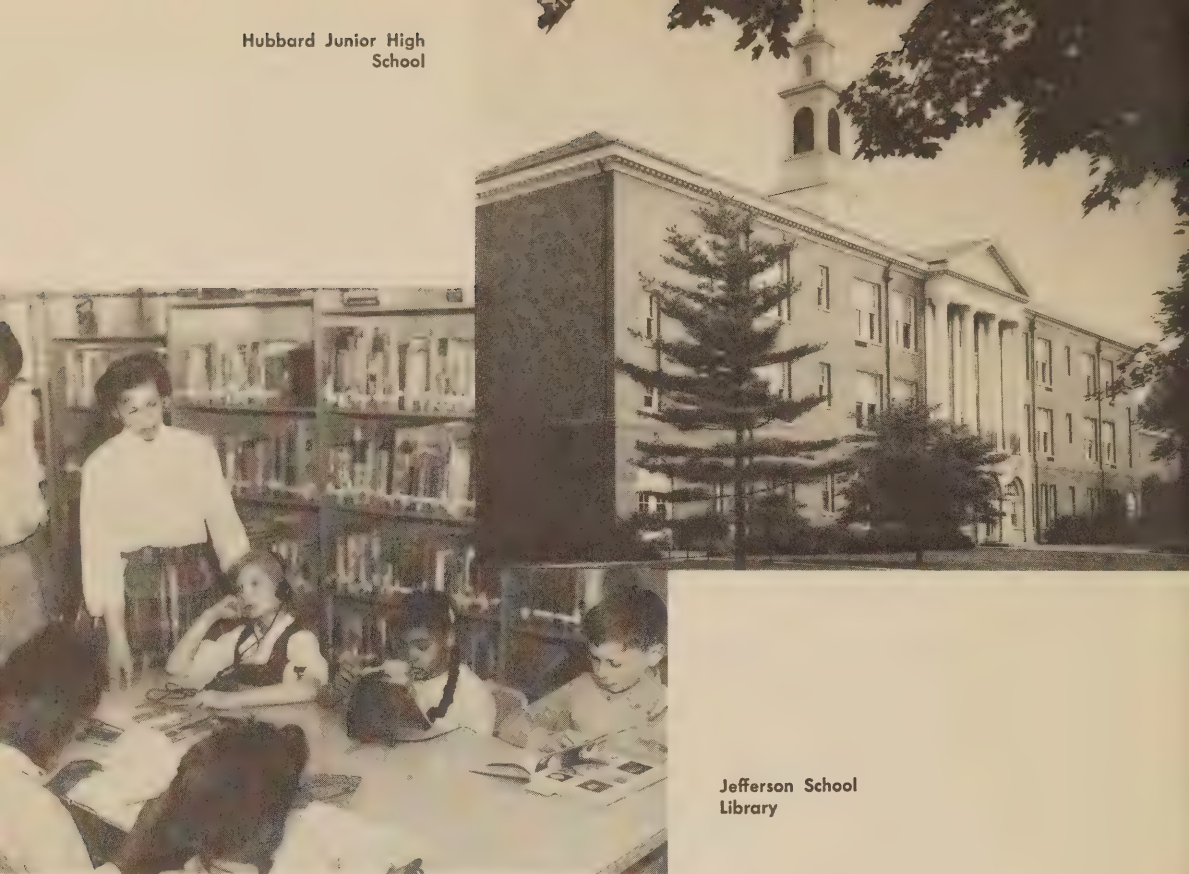
SCHOOL BUILDINGS

School Building Plans and Developments

Classroom space in 1965 was adequate to meet city-wide needs. However, in light of projected enrollments, certain recommendations for additional space have been made. These include a new high school and additional elementary classrooms.

Several sites for a new high school have been considered by the Common Council. Those which have received the most support are: Tract 19, the Bryant School site, and the Arlington Avenue site. Tract 19 is a 34-acre area located in the eastern end of the city, most of which is owned by the city and the Board of Education. The Bryant School site comprises a four-block industrial-residential area around Bryant School. The Arlington Avenue site is at the rear of the present high school. Each of these sites has been rejected once by the Council but may be reconsidered.

Upon completion of the new high school a portion of the present high school will be converted into a central elementary school. Use of Bryant School will be discontinued at that time, the State Department of Education having recommended that its use be discontinued by 1965/66.



Jefferson School
Library

Community Use of School Facilities

School facilities, including buildings and grounds, are available without charge to non-profit youth-serving organizations, and at a small fee to other community organizations. Many groups present programs of cultural and civic interest in the high school auditorium. The Plainfield Recreation Commission makes use of various school facilities throughout the year.

TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation is provided for children in grades 1-4 living more than nine-tenths of a mile from their school, fifth and sixth grade pupils living over 1.3 miles from their school, and junior high students beyond two miles from their building. The physically and mentally handicapped pupils are transported to their schools by bus or taxi. Students using public transportation are supplied bus tickets at reduced rates.

All transportation contracts for more than \$650 per year must be awarded to the lowest bidder after publicly inviting bids. Such contracts are renewable under certain conditions. School bus safety requirements are defined in detail by law and the vehicles must be inspected twice each year. School bus drivers must pass a rigid annual examination for a license.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

There are a number of special services briefly described below which are adjuncts to both the educational program and the operation of the schools.

Libraries

Central libraries are located in the high school and in the two junior high schools. The Board of Education is now in the midst of a program establishing libraries in each of the elementary schools. This five-year project was begun in 1962 with an experienced professional librarian in charge. Upon its completion the Plainfield school system will have a continuous library program from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Pre-School Training Program

A pre-school training program was begun by a group of volunteers in 1963 to help familiarize children with school life before entering school. In 1965 about 100 children attended several sessions a week at one of these seven locations: Neighborhood House, West End Gardens, Elmwood Gardens, St. Andrews Church and three public schools. The volunteer teachers used teaching guides and equipment supplied by the Board of Education. They were assisted by a school social worker.

Recognizing the need for special training to prepare youngsters from homes in the lower socio-economic level for the different social

"Headstart"



and academic situations they will encounter in school, the Board of Education began a pre-school program called "Headstart," on a professional basis in the summer of 1965 for 90 children. The Board plans to provide a similar program during the school year. Both of these programs use funds from the federal government.

Fluid I-II

An experimental program was set up in four schools in 1964 to help children who have completed kindergarten but whose work or adjustment indicates that they would have difficulty with the normal

educational methods of the elementary grades They are given extensive individual attention in classes limited to a maximum number of 15 children. In these groups they receive an enriched beginning program and may be transferred to the regular grades when their readiness is indicated. In the 1965/66 school year the "fluid" program was expanded to six schools.

Remedial Reading — 1965/66

Beginning in the fall of 1965 the number of reading specialists in the school system was increased to ten, so that there is one in each elementary school.

Vocational programs

Vocational education is provided within the regular school system. Arts and crafts and basic business courses are taught in junior high school, and the high school offers a full program of industrial, home and fine arts, and business education.

Special Education for Retarded and Gifted Children

The schooling of mentally retarded children is provided for in Lincoln School and several rooms at Bryant School. Classes for trainable and educable pupils are taught by specially trained teachers. The pupils vary in age from six to twenty years. In addition there is one class at Maxson Junior High School and two at the senior high school. A work experience program is conducted in cooperation with local business and industry for vocational preparation of senior high school retarded students.

Gifted elementary school students meet regularly in small groups with a teacher consultant who provides special instruction designed to enrich and further challenge them. In the secondary schools ability grouping provides students with the most challenging level of instruction in each area of study.

Guidance and Counseling

Guidance counseling is provided in both junior and senior high schools by counselors who assist the students in program and vocational planning.

The attendance officer, who is also a school social worker, handles attendance problems, processes all working papers and discusses related problems with students and their families. When necessary he acts as liaison between the students and the courts or various social agencies. A full-time school social worker helps students and their families work out problems with attendance, school work, behavior and jobs.

Members of the school staff cooperate with guidance officials in helping students.

School Lunch Program

In addition to complete cafeterias for students and staff in each of the three secondary schools and in Lincoln School, food service



including sandwiches, milk, juice and ice cream is available in all the other schools.

Health Service and Safety Provisions

The school health program requires immunization records, routine physical examinations at periodic intervals, and sanitary and safety inspection of schools and grounds.

There are six school nurses who give periodic checks to students and are on call at all times to render first aid. Two psychologists are employed by the schools for guidance and testing. Part-time services are provided by two doctors, a dentist, and a psychiatrist who works with certain children on a referral basis. Two speech correctionists work with small groups of children in the elementary schools.

Fire drills (required by law) and street safety patrols stationed at crossings for elementary school pupils are among the provisions made to insure the safety of students.

School — Community Activities

The Adult Evening School is run by an Adult Evening School Council in cooperation with the Plainfield Recreation Department and offers for a minimal fee courses in foreign languages, music, art, English for the foreign-born, crafts, and athletic activities as well as many others.

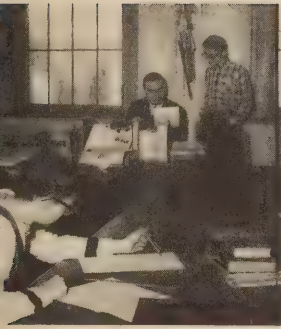
The Parent-Teacher associations active in each school provide a continuing service in helping to interpret the educational program in the schools to their members and to the general public. Regularly scheduled meetings are held, and special programs and city-wide workshops and panel discussions present various aspects of the school activities to parents and the public.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS (about 9,000 students)

Elementary Schools

Barlow, Farragut Road and East Front Street (K-4)
Bryant, 421 East Sixth Street (K, Special Education)
Cedarbrook, 1049 Central Avenue (K-4)
Clinton, West Fourth Street and Clinton Avenue (K-4)
Cook, 739 Leland Avenue (K-4)
Emerson, 305 Emerson Avenue (K, 5, 6)
Evergreen, 1033 Evergreen Avenue (K-4)
Jefferson, 1200 Myrtle Avenue (K-4)
Lincoln, 209 Berckman Street (Special Education)
Stillman, West Fourth Street and Arlington Avenue (K-4)
Woodland, Central Street (K-4)
Washington, 427 Darrow Avenue (K, 5, 6)

Hubbard Junior High School, 611 West Eighth Street
Maxson Junior High School, 920 East Seventh Street
Plainfield High School, 119 West Ninth Street



PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

Hartridge School, 1040 Plainfield Avenue (college preparatory country day school for girls, K-12, about 235 students)

Wardlaw School, 1030 Central Avenue (college preparatory country day school for boys, K-12, about 250 students)

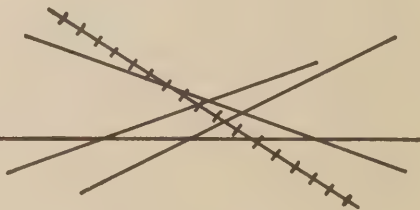
St. Bernard's School, 368 Sumner Avenue (Roman Catholic parochial school, K-8, about 545 students)

St. Mary's School, 513 West Sixth Street (Roman Catholic parochial school, K-8, about 700 students)

Yeshiva of Plainfield, 526 West Seventh Street (Hebrew parochial day school, K-8, about 80 students)

Know Your Schools published in 1962 by the Plainfield League of Women Voters gives information not presented here, including a detailed chapter on curriculum. This booklet is available from many of the same sources as **This is Plainfield**.

LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS



PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

As an open door to the recorded knowledge of past and present generations, the public library plays a significant role as mental stimulant and research center for the whole community.

History

The Plainfield Library first opened its doors to the public in May 1882. The original quarters for the Library were in a rented room on the second floor of a building on the south side of Front Street just east of Park Avenue. Within two years Job Male (Plainfield's first Mayor) became interested in the library, joined the Board of Directors, and offered to donate land and erect a suitable building on condition that others should furnish \$20,000 for books and works of art. This was soon done and this building, located at Park Avenue and West 8th Street, was completed in April 1886.

The adjoining building, facing on College Place, was donated by Andrew Carnegie in 1912. A concrete structure for book stacks built in 1899 was the only portion ever paid for with city funds.

These buildings house two reading rooms for adults, a children's room, two public meeting rooms, the library offices and workrooms, and approximately three miles of bookshelves.

In addition to the main building the Library maintains a small branch library at 1104 East 2nd Street.

The New Building

For many years it was recognized that new and larger quarters would greatly enhance the usefulness of Plainfield's library resources. In 1965, aided by active civic support, the Library Board succeeded in obtaining Common Council approval for a new library to be built on land adjacent to the present one. The new building is a simple rectangular structure with bronze-colored glass walls, approximately 45,000 square feet on two levels, one of which is below ground. A skylight-covered inner court provides natural light for the lower floor. The court is also an appropriate setting for art exhibits and other special programs.

There is considerable increase in seating capacity (especially in the Children's Department) and in book capacity (200,000 as compared to 75,000). A meeting room which will accommodate 250 people has ready access to elevator and kitchen facilities and can be divided into smaller meeting areas. Other services provided for in the new building include an audio-visual area with microform reading equipment, record-listening facilities and a children's story hour and activities area.



Proposed New Library

Cost of the library including land acquisition and furnishings is approximately \$1,800,000. Of this sum \$100,000 was furnished by an anonymous donor, \$100,000 from the federal government, and the remainder by municipal bond issue. The building will be completed in 1967.

Administration

The Library is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of nine members appointed by the Mayor. Board members are entrusted

with policy making and are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Library. Policies set by the Board are carried out by the Library Director who is appointed by the Board and is responsible to it for the administration of the Library.

There is a staff of some 30 people, nearly a third of whom are state-certified professional librarians. All positions are under civil service.

The Library receives an annual appropriation from the City of Plainfield; additional income is provided by endowment funds and by state and federal aid.

The 1965 budget of \$183,344 included \$123,047 from city appropriation, approximately \$9,300 in state aid and \$31,835 in federal funds for area reference library service. Approximately 17% of the 1964 budget of \$144,906 was spent for books and services; 66% for salaries.

The Library is open 68 hours a week, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday (except during the summer months when the Library closes at 1 p.m. on Saturday). The East End Branch is open 9 a.m.-12 noon and 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Monday and Thursday, and 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday. Its services are free to anyone who lives, works or pays taxes in Plainfield. Non-residents may become subscribers upon payment of a moderate fee. Other statistics for 1964:

	TOTAL	JUVENILE
Number of Registered Borrowers (includes 670 non-resident cards)	22,995	6,627
Circulation	292,728	118,713

Books and Services

From the original library of a few reference books and current magazines the Plainfield Public Library has developed a sizable collection of materials of wide range and depth and of great use to Plainfielders and non-Plainfielders alike. The Library has over 130,000 books, and subscribes to over 300 current periodicals. The East End Branch carries about 2,000 books. Several thousand uncataloged pamphlets supplement these materials.

A wide range of standard reference texts is readily accessible on the shelves in the Main Reading Room. In this room are also kept special index files listing community organizations and their officers, local biographies, information on speakers, and a community activities calendar. The Library maintains a rental collection of current popular books and a photoduplicating service for the convenience of its patrons.

The microfilm library includes microfilms of **The Courier-News** and former Plainfield newspapers going back to 1837 and a complete file of **The New York Times** from 1944, as well as other materials on microfilm and microcards. There are two microfilm readers and a microcard reader.

Through its endowment funds the Library has been able to accumulate and maintain fine collections of scientific books and periodicals

and books on American history and government. There is also an extensive art book collection, a genealogy collection, a picture file, New Jersey history and Plainfield history collections, a growing business library, and the Carnegie Corporation collection of 2,500 color slides of the arts of the United States.

An interlibrary loan service is available for registered borrowers who need particular books not otherwise obtainable. This is a reciprocal arrangement among libraries, and through it the Plainfield Public Library both lends and borrows books.

Through its membership in the New Jersey Library Film Circuit, the Library offers a collection of 16mm educational, informational and recreational films suitable for all ages. These are available to individuals, study clubs and similar groups and are free to registered borrowers.

Class lectures and orientation tours are provided annually for junior and senior high school students learning to use the Library's resources. Great numbers of students use the Library all year round for reference books and related study materials.

The Plainfield Public Library serves the community as a cultural center as well as a reference agency and lender of books. Concerts, dramatic readings, and art and photography exhibits are regular occurrences. Story hours are conducted for children, and film programs are offered for both children and adults. Appropriate displays are arranged to coincide with special events, often in cooperation with community organizations. Various discussion groups meet here as do other local organizations.

Area Library

In 1964, following a study of New Jersey library service, the Plainfield Public Library became one of fifteen area libraries designated to provide reference services for other libraries in their respective areas. In addition to serving its own city, the Plainfield Area Reference Library supplies reference service to eighteen surrounding communities through their local libraries. The program enables residents of these communities to have relatively easy access to a reference collection several times larger than is available to them within their own libraries. Federal funds for these services were provided through the Library Services and Construction Act of 1964.

OTHER LIBRARIES

Muhlenberg Hospital at Park Avenue and Randolph Road maintains the E. Gordon Glass, M.D., Memorial Library. This is a collection of some 2,200 volumes. Over 100 professional and scientific journals are currently received, and there are 1,500 bound volumes of journals. Use of the library is limited to professional health personnel associated with Muhlenberg Hospital (doctors, nurses, administrative and technical personnel, student nurses, student medical technologists, and

physicians enrolled in the several graduate medical education programs of the hospital).

Other libraries are located in such centers as Neighborhood House, the Jewish Community Center, the YMCA and YWCA, churches and synagogues, and private and public schools. A technical library is maintained by the National Starch and Chemical Corporation for its own personnel. School libraries are discussed further in the chapter on schools.

DRAKE HOUSE MUSEUM

Drake House Museum is an historic house dating from 1745. General George Washington is believed to have been entertained there during the Revolutionary War and to have used the house as his headquarters and command post during the Battle of the Short Hills, June 27, 1777. Originally built by Isaac Drake for his son Nathaniel, the house was sold during the 1860's to John Harburger, a New York banker, who made extensive alterations and additions. In 1920 the West End Civic Association purchased the house from the Harburger estate in order to preserve it as an historical memorial, one of the few existing links to Plainfield's colonial days.



Drake House

The Museum is devoted to the collection of Americana, Indian and military items, and local history. Since 1959 there has been a program of redecorating and developing a series of period rooms furnished in a manner typical of Colonial and Revolutionary times. Exhibits and guided tours are part of its program and the Museum serves as a meeting place for patriotic and civic organizations.

While the City of Plainfield has title to the property and assists in its maintenance as a public museum, it is The Historical Society of Plainfield and North Plainfield which has the responsibility for administering Drake House Museum. The Society is assisted by The Junior League of Plainfield, The Continental Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and The Plainfield Garden Club.

Drake House is located at 602 West Front Street at Plainfield Avenue. It is open three afternoons a week (Monday, Wednesday, Saturday) from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society has its quarters in the Seventh Day Baptist Building at 510 Watchung Avenue. Here may be found the archives of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in the United States and England, including many church records, diaries, genealogies and letters. The Society's library-museum is open to all, Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.



HEALTH AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH

Board of Health

The Plainfield Board of Health operates under the New Jersey law enacted in 1880 requiring a board of health in every municipality. In 1887 another act was passed stating how local boards shall be organized, defining local authority and requiring that state laws be enforced. An annual report is sent by the local board to the State Department of Health.

The five members of the Board of Health are appointed by the Mayor, subject to the approval of the Common Council. Each member

is appointed for five years without pay. Two of the members are local physicians. The Board determines health policies and sets up the Plainfield Sanitary Code in accordance with state laws.

Department of Health

The policies of the Board of Health are carried out by the Department of Health under the direction of the Health Officer, who is appointed by the Board. His educational background must be in the field of public health and he must have full-time working experience in a state or local public health organization. Other personnel in the Health Department are three sanitarians, a plumbing inspector, a laboratory technician and three clerical workers. With the exception of the clerical workers, these employees must be licensed by the New Jersey State Department of Health.

The Common Council grants funds to meet the budgetary needs of the Health Department. The budget for 1965 was \$55,165 or slightly more than \$1 per capita. About 90% of the budget is designated for salaries of the Health Department personnel. Plainfield receives no monetary state or federal aid. The Health Department is the dispensing agent for preventive serums available from the state Department of Health and these serums are issued to any local doctor upon request.

The responsibilities of the Health Department are:

1. Registration of vital statistics (registration of births, deaths, marriages, increases or decreases in population, stillbirths, infant mortality rates, sickness and disease rates).
2. Issuance of licenses to food establishments, milk, ice and ice cream distributors, barber and beauty shops, and garbage collectors.
3. Food inspection, including all premises where food is produced, processed, stored, handled and/or sold.
4. Sanitation inspection of food establishments, barber and beauty shops, plumbing, swimming pools, and factories, and response to complaints relating to these.
5. Communicable disease control.
6. Well-baby clinics.
7. *Parochial school health supervision.
8. Venereal disease clinics.
9. Sabin oral vaccine clinics.
10. Laboratory analyses of water, milk, ice cream, swimming pool water and eating utensils (restaurants).
11. Air pollution control.
12. Rabies and rodent control, including anti-rabies clinics held twice a year.

*The Board of Education establishes its own health program for the public schools in accordance with the State Board of Education

and in cooperation with the Board of Health. (See **Know Your Schools**, League of Women Voters of Plainfield, 1962.)

Environmental Health

Water is supplied to Plainfield residents by the privately owned Elizabethtown Water Company. The water sources are the Raritan and Millstone Rivers and deep wells, the latter supplying most of Plainfield's needs. The river water is chemically treated with alum, charcoal and chlorine; the well water needs only a small amount of chlorine for purity. Periodic tests of all sources of water are made locally and by the state. Plainfield faces no water shortage in the foreseeable future.

Domestic sewage and industrial wastes are carried off from homes, factories and other buildings through a system of underground pipes (sanitary sewers) and rain water is carried away through a separate system of underground pipes (storm sewers). Installation of additional pipes and maintenance of existing ones is under the direction of the Department of Public Works under the jurisdiction of the Common Council.

All sewage must be treated in a sewage disposal plant which must conform to rules and regulations established by the State Department of Health. More information on Plainfield's sewage system can be found in the chapter on Municipal Services.

Garbage and rubbish disposal is handled by private scavengers who rent land outside the city for sanitary landfills. Trucks are periodically inspected by the Health Department which issues them a license to operate. Collectors who pick up waste paper, cardboard, etc., but no garbage, obtain their licenses from the City Clerk.

A machine to measure smoke pollution is installed in the laboratory in City Hall. Smoke, gases, soot, stench, air-borne or gas-borne particles in sufficient numbers are considered nuisances and must be corrected. Individuals and industrial plants causing such air pollution must comply with an order from the Health Department to correct the situation or be subject to fines. Water pollution is not a problem in Plainfield.

Cooperating Officials

The Public Officer, who enforces the property maintenance ordinance, works in close cooperation with the Health Department to maintain the health, welfare and safety of the residents of Plainfield. (See chapter on Housing.)

The City Physician is appointed by the Mayor with Council approval for a term of three years. His duties include the care of sick persons as requested by the Board of Health or the Director of Welfare and the examination of city employees. He also cooperates with the Police Department and the Municipal Court in making physical examinations and in testifying when requested. His salary in 1965 was \$7,500.

PUBLIC WELFARE

Although general assistance is available locally for Plainfield residents, most public welfare services are provided by state and county agencies.

County Welfare Board

The County Welfare Board is appointed by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Union County. Under supervision of the New Jersey Department of Institutions and Agencies it offers the following public assistance programs for those who qualify:

1. Old-age assistance to those 65 and over.
2. Medical assistance to the aged.
3. Aid to the totally and permanently disabled.
4. Aid to dependent children.

(A dependent child is any needy child under 18 years deprived of parental support by death, parental absence from home, parental physical or mental incapacity, and who is living with the other parent, a responsible relative or in a foster home in New Jersey.)

5. Aid to the blind.

(This is in cooperation with the New Jersey Commission for the Blind.)

Applicants for aid listed above should apply directly to the County Welfare Board at 7 Bridge Street, Elizabeth.

These programs are part of federal law and are financed jointly by the federal, state and county governments. In 1964 the County Welfare Board spent \$933,612 for 534 cases in Plainfield. Almost 60% of this was for aid to dependent children and approximately 18% for medical assistance for the aged.

Local Assistance Board

Our local government's responsibility in the field of public welfare is the administration of general assistance or aid to those who cannot be helped in other ways. The power to supervise and set policy for this program, subject to the authority of the state, is vested in the Local Assistance Board by state law (Title 44).

The Board has five members appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Common Council. One must be a woman and one is usually a Council member. All are non-salaried and serve for four years, except for the Councilman who serves for one year.

Department of Public Welfare

The Department of Public Welfare, under the supervision of the Local Assistance Board, provides general assistance or emergency relief to families and individuals in financial need who meet eligibility requirements.

The Department is located in City Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Any person living in Plainfield can receive aid if he qualifies as eligible for relief. If he has lived in the state two continuous years and in the city one year, he is helped at the expense of the local Department; otherwise Plainfield is reimbursed by the town in which the applicant has legal settlement.

Forty-five per cent of general financial assistance given to Plainfield residents and 80% of the amount given to non-residents lacking legal settlement in the state or municipality from which they come is reimbursed to the city by the state.

The Department of Public Welfare operates according to state laws in its administration of municipal aid. The Bureau of Assistance of the New Jersey Department of Institutions and Agencies sets standards for investigations, grants and records, requires reports, and audits municipal welfare expenditures.

The Department is headed by a Director of Public Welfare who is selected by the Local Assistance Board and approved by the state, the Mayor and the Common Council. The term is for five years; the salary range is \$8,230-\$10,510.

The state requires that the Director be a graduate from a recognized college or university with a major in social science or psychology and have at least two years experience in a public or recognized private welfare agency, one year of which must be in a supervisory capacity.

The Director is the administrator of public welfare for the local Assistance Board and is in charge of activities of a staff composed of one supervisor, three case workers, an investigator, a bookkeeper and three clerks.

The Department of Public Welfare investigates and reappraises monthly the amount and kind of assistance, devises ways of bringing individuals to self-support or to receive the support of other persons or agencies, keeps complete records and recommends commitment to state or county institutions when indicated.

Following the Department's approval hospital payments for eligible patients are paid by the city to Muhlenberg Hospital or another hospital depending on the individual's special needs. The welfare staff may also refer applicants to state and county institutions or to private agencies for mental health, correction and social welfare.

The Department provides the following services to all members of the community: counseling and assisting with nursing home placement, commitment to mental institutions, funeral arrangements or domestic problems.

As a referral center the Welfare Department maintains lists of public and private health and welfare institutions, including boarding and nursing homes, and is often consulted by the courts, police, schools, churches and social service agencies.

During 1964 the Welfare Department made total general assistance grants of \$164,459 and the cost of the administration was \$51,003.



Intensive Care Unit
at Muhlenberg Hospital

Cases opened in 1964 numbered 450, cases closed were 471. In that year 1,514 cases involving 5,541 individuals were aided at an average cost of \$114.86 per case.

Funds for the general assistance grants came from the following:

SOURCE	AMOUNT IN 1964
Plainfield Municipal Budget	\$ 55,842.70
Reimbursement from the State of New Jersey	84,576.74
Refunds from other municipalities	14,756.30
Other reimbursements and client refunds	9,284.15
Total Grants	\$164,459.89

The amount paid by the city in 1964 was the lowest since 1958 because of less financial need by the residents and increased reimbursements.

PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES Muhlenberg Hospital

Muhlenberg is a voluntary nonprofit community teaching hospital serving Union, Middlesex and Somerset counties, an area of about 200,000 people. The present capacity of 520 beds is considered adequate to serve this area for the foreseeable future. The hospital, administered by a Board of Governors, is staffed by over 200 doctors and over 1200 employees. Of these, 550 are in the nursing department, which includes aides, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, orderlies and ward clerks. The average number of patients per day for 1964 was 397.

There are free, pay and part-pay patients at the hospital at all times. The hospital receives some financial assistance from Union County and from some municipalities (Plainfield contributed \$50,000 in 1965) but these funds pay only part of the deficit incurred by the hospital's caring for medically indigent patients. The average cost per patient per day was \$46.19 (audited figure) in 1964.

Muhlenberg Hospital sponsors the following programs and special services:

1. Clinics for those unable to afford the services of a private physician, staffed by hospital doctors on a rotating basis.
2. A three-year accredited School of Nursing.
3. A School of Medical Technology. (Students from Fairleigh Dickinson, Monmouth and Centenary colleges may spend their fourth year of college at Muhlenberg working in the laboratories under a fully accredited program. High School graduates may take a one-year course to qualify in histology.)
4. A fully accredited school for training X-Ray technicians.
5. A full program of medical education, including internship and residency. (At present there are fully accredited residency programs in Pathology, Medicine and Pediatrics.)
6. A two-year residency in hospital administration in cooperation with George Washington University in Washington, D. C.
7. A cancer clinic.
8. An intensive care unit added in 1963, which uses such devices as closed circuit television, direct voice communication with patients and electronically recorded heartbeats to maintain constant contact with critically ill patients.

Muhlenberg Hospital maintains a full house staff and is the only hospital serving our immediate community. Other hospitals in the area are: The Somerset Hospital, Somerville; Overlook Hospital, Summit; Middlesex General Hospital, New Brunswick; St. Peter's General Hospital, New Brunswick; and John E. Runnells Hospital for Chest and Chronic Diseases, Berkeley Heights.

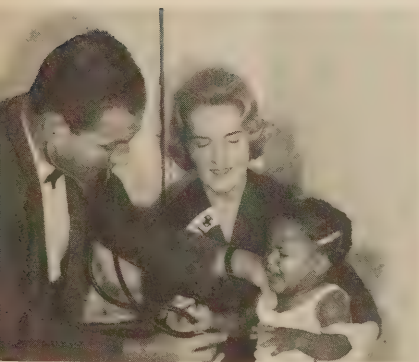
Visiting Nurses Association

The Visiting Nurses Association operates on a contract basis with public and private agencies in Union, Somerset and Middlesex counties. The organization offers care to all persons regardless of race, creed, color or ability to pay. The income of the Association is derived from contracts, fees and United Fund support.

The Visiting Nurses Association is under contract to the city of Plainfield, under supervision of the Board of Health, to provide parochial school nursing, run the well-baby clinics for indigent families, operate venereal disease clinics and isolate communicable disease cases.

The case finding and follow-up of tuberculosis is the most vital area of communicable disease control in 1965.

Many other services are provided by the Visiting Nurses Association in cooperation with doctors, hospitals, the city Welfare Department, the state Welfare Department and the social security program. The city budgeted \$35,000 for the Association in 1965 for health and welfare services.



Well Baby Clinic

Plainfield Humane Society

The Humane Society is under contract to the city to patrol streets for stray and lost dogs, to dispose of dead animals and to place unclaimed pets in homes. In Plainfield all dogs must be licensed and are not allowed to run at-large. The Society's budget is based on income from dog license fees collected by the city and from private donations.

Community Service Council

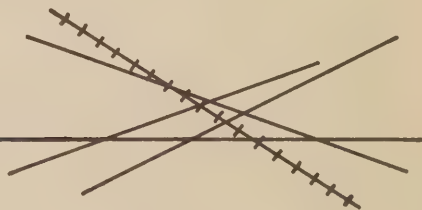
The coordinating agency for the public and private health and welfare services in the Plainfield area is the Community Service Council. Over 50 member organizations join together in the Council for co-operative planning. In 1965 steps were taken to merge the services of the Community Chest, the United Community Fund and the Community Service Council before the end of the year.

United Community Fund and Community Chest

The United Community Fund is a money-raising organization serving 23 agencies in the Plainfield area. Since 1960 it has been helped by the Community Service Council in budgeting and distributing proceeds collected. The Community Chest, which was formerly a fund-raising organization, distributes funds for 14 member agencies in Plainfield, North Plainfield and Fanwood.

A selected list of other health and welfare services is included in the list of community organizations at the end of the book. Further information concerning the organizations listed may be obtained by telephoning or writing to the Community Service Council, 703 Watchung Avenue.

HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL



The 14,426 housing units in Plainfield include a variety of housing facilities. Forty-nine percent are single dwellings, 25% contain two units, 16% have three to nine units and 10% have ten or more living quarters. Many of the homes, built in the latter half of the nineteenth century, were on the large estates of wealthy summer and year-round residents. Today these houses are being converted into

multiple dwelling units. Many garden apartments have been built since 1938, the year when the Meadowbrook Village Apartments opened as one of the first apartments of this type in the country. Several high-rise apartments have been constructed in recent years.

According to the 1960 United States census, 76% of Plainfield's housing units were built prior to 1940. Eleven per cent of all housing was classified as deteriorating and/or in need of major repair, while three percent was unsafe or inadequate in 1960. Because of the concern of city officials over these conditions a Property Maintenance Code was adopted in 1964.

HOUSING AUTHORITY AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The Housing Authority and Redevelopment Agency was established in 1950 by the Common Council to undertake urban renewal projects and public housing programs. Although it is an autonomous agency under state law, it may not undertake any project until an agreement has been made with the Mayor and Common Council regarding payments to the city in lieu of taxes.

Six commissioners serve on the Housing Authority and Redevelopment Agency. Five are appointed by the Common Council for staggered terms of five years. The State appoints the sixth commissioner who has the same powers as the other five. The Authority is administered by a paid director who is aided by an assistant director, office staff and maintenance crew.

Funds for constructing public housing projects are forthcoming in the planning stage through the federal Public Housing Administration in the form of preliminary loans. Thereafter, during development and construction, funds are received in the form of advances and permanent notes. When the development cost of a project is definitive, the local Authority sells 40-year local Housing Authority bonds which are guaranteed by the Treasury of the United States. While the city is not required to put up any actual cash for a low rent project, it contributes much in other services. When the project enters the management stage and rents are collected, payments amounting to 10% of shelter rent are made to the city in lieu of taxes.

The financing of urban renewal is slightly different from public housing, inasmuch as the city must contribute 1/4 of the net project cost. This 1/4 share can be in cash or non-cash grant-in-aid. It is calculated in relation to the net project cost when all financing has been completed.

Many other agencies and personnel of the local government are concerned with housing and urban renewal. They include the Chief Building Inspector, Public Officer, Planning Director, Board of Appeals, Sub-standard Housing Committee, Public Works Committee of the Common Council, Planning Board, Advisory Committee (often referred to as the Plainfield Area Development Committee) and the Citizens' Advisory Committee for Community Improvement. The Board of Health, Fire Department and Police Department are in charge of inspecting

boarding and rooming houses for maintenance of health and safety standards.

HOUSING PROJECTS

Two low-rent housing projects are administered by the Authority. West End Gardens was completed in 1954 and Elmwood Gardens was first occupied in 1961. They contain 248 dwelling units for families of low income, including 30 units in Elmwood Gardens designated for the elderly. These developments were financed through the Federal Housing Authority and replaced sub-standard housing.

Occupants are selected according to need for good housing, income, and length of residence in Plainfield. In the beginning eligible persons who were displaced by the construction of the projects were given first consideration. Rent is based on the ability to pay; as family income increases, the rent may also increase. When the maximum allowable income is exceeded the family must find privately owned housing. There is a backlog of several hundred applications for occupancy.

URBAN RENEWAL

The first step in planned comprehensive urban renewal for Plainfield is a two-year study to begin upon receipt of federal funds. This project, called a community renewal program, is under the guidance of the Planning Board and the Planning Director who will employ a firm of professional consultants to study obsolescence and deterioration of structures and neighborhoods, the resources of the city, and capital improvement through construction needs.

Until this plan is put into effect all urban renewal is done on a project basis using federal funds to the maximum. Completed projects include the new Police Headquarters, the housing developments, street widenings and playgrounds. Property for the Madison-Park project (the block bounded by East Front Street, Park Avenue, Second Street and Madison Avenue) is being purchased by the Housing Authority and Redevelopment Agency with approval and funds from the federal Urban Renewal Administration. The buildings are being razed and the Authority is seeking a developer for construction of a modern commercial block. The Housing Authority appointed a relocation assistant in 1964 to provide aid to residents and businesses needing it.

The Citizens' Advisory Committee for Community Improvement is a special committee appointed by the Mayor to satisfy federal requirements for federal participation in local urban renewal.

Another special study committee appointed by the Mayor recommended the construction of high-rise apartment houses. This committee reported in January 1964 that such apartments would increase the city's ratables but would need little in the way of services, especially educational services. Rezoning, additions to the Master Plan, changes in the Building Code, other types of multifamily dwellings, a cultural

center and study of apartment construction by the Planning Board were also recommended by this committee.

Acting on the committee's recommendations, the Planning Board adopted a site-plan approval requirement for all apartment buildings, giving the board more planning control over high-rise and garden apartments. An amendment to the Zoning Ordinance is being drafted in 1965 to encourage more apartment development in the city in selected areas.

BUILDING CODE

All construction in Plainfield has been regulated by building codes since 1896. A performance building code was adopted by the Common Council in 1962. It is patterned on the Basic Code of the Building Officials Conference of America, a national association of city officials, and is adaptable to new materials and methods of building. There is a separate plumbing code and an electric code, which is the National Electric Code.

CHIEF BUILDING INSPECTOR

The Building Code is enforced by the Department of Buildings headed by the Chief Building Inspector who is directly responsible to the Public Works Committee of the Common Council. The duties of the Chief Building Inspector are to enforce the Building Code and the Zoning Ordinance, issue building permits and certificates of occupancy, inspect construction, investigate new developments in building to see that they meet the functional requirements of the code, establish rules for new materials, keep department records, and issue stop orders for noncompliance. He has the authority to enter any building in the city to enforce the code. The 1965 salary range for Chief Building Inspector is \$6,275-\$8,015.

A certificate of occupancy is applied for at the same time a building permit is obtained and is issued upon satisfactory completion of the construction.

BOARD OF APPEALS

The Board of Appeals reviews the Building Code when necessary and recommends changes. It also hears appeals from decisions of the Chief Building Inspector when modifications of the code have been sought. A majority vote of the Board is necessary to alter an appealed decision. For further action dissatisfied parties take their appeals to the courts.

Each member of the five-member Board of Appeals shall be a licensed professional engineer or architect, or a builder or superintendent of building construction, each with at least ten years experience. At no time shall more than two members come from the same profession or business. Appointed by the Mayor with Common Council approval, they serve for terms of three years.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND THE PUBLIC OFFICER

The Property Maintenance Ordinance was adopted by the Common Council in 1964. This code includes the earlier Public Officer ordinance plus new regulations and covers all commercial buildings as well as all residences. The ordinance states requirements for health, safety, welfare, occupation-density, and the maintenance of the appearance of buildings and grounds. Maintenance responsibilities of tenants as well as those of owners are cited. The code is reviewed annually.

Enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code is the duty of the Public Officer, who is appointed for a one-year term by the Mayor with confirmation of the Common Council. He reports to the Public Works Committee of the Council. Currently the Chief Building Inspector is serving as the Public Officer, for which he receives an additional salary of \$1,500. He is aided by a housing inspector who performs the duties assigned to him by the Public Officer.

The Public Officer has the power to inspect all buildings in the city for violations, serve complaints, hold hearings, issue orders for correction of violations, and repair, close or demolish buildings in violation. Penalties for violations are fines and jail sentences. The Public Officer may also grant variances from the Code.

SUB-STANDARD HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Sub-standard Housing Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the Public Officer. The committee is composed of the City Engineer, Fire Chief, Health Officer, one member of the Housing Authority and seven others appointed for one-year terms by the Mayor with Common Council approval. The Public Officer may ask them to advise him whether a dwelling should be demolished or repaired and how to implement the Property Maintenance Code.



Many agencies, both public and private, are concerned with the future development of Plainfield. Recently, planning has developed on a regional basis with the formation of the Union County Planning Board and an interim planning council with thirteen area communities. In Plainfield a planning director coordinates and programs planning in the city.

PLANNING DIRECTOR

The office of Planning Director was created by ordinance in 1964. The Director, a civil service employee, is employed by the Common Council. He must hold a bachelor's degree from a recognized university or college in planning, public administration, urban renewal or related fields. He must be experienced or have done post-graduate work in one of these areas. The salary range for this position in 1965 was \$13,215-\$16,880.

In carrying out his duties the Planning Director coordinates all the planning activities of the city. He advises and assists the Mayor and the Council in regard to the physical planning and public improvement aspects of all matters related to the development of the city.

He provides staff assistance for all matters under the Planning Board's jurisdiction, acts as its secretary, supervises planning consultants, and maintains close contact with state, county and area planning organizations.

He also provides staff assistance to the Advisory Committee (Plainfield Area Development Committee) which is concerned with industrial and commercial development. He serves as secretary of the Committee and coordinates all of its activities with city departments and agencies.

Other responsibilities of the Planning Director include conducting continuous studies as a basis for planning recommendations, development and administration of programs and activities for rehabilitation of housing and the conservation of neighborhoods, study of the operation and effect of land use controls, and coordination of general municipal planning with the planning and execution of urban renewal and housing projects.

He reports to the Mayor for overall direction in his work and is under administrative supervision of the city Administrator.

PLANNING BOARD

The central planning agency of Plainfield is the Planning Board which was set up in 1946. Originally established under permissive



state laws, its powers were strengthened in 1953 by additional state legislation (New Jersey Laws 1953, Chapter 433).

The job of the Planning Board is to guide the land use in the city to serve the best interests of the citizens. It administers the Land Subdivision Ordinance of the City of Plainfield and the Master Plan, and acts as Plainfield's zoning commission.

All money used by the Planning Board comes from the Common Council which makes appropriations for the Board's operations from general municipal funds.

In accordance with state law the Planning Board is composed of seven members as follows:

1. The Mayor and a city official appointed by the Mayor, who serve for two-year terms coinciding with the Mayor's term of office.
2. A member from the Common Council, who is chosen annually by the President of the Council.
3. Four citizens members, who are appointed by the Mayor for four-year terms each.

None receives monetary compensation as a member of the Planning Board.

MASTER PLAN

Plainfield has a long-range Master Plan which contains recommendations for future use of public land and improvements on public land in the city. (The Zoning Ordinance regulates use of private land within the city.) The Master Plan, which was prepared by members of the Planning Board and a professional consultant, was adopted by the Board in 1959. The Plan contains the provision that it be reviewed at least as often as every five years in order that necessary revisions may be made. A public hearing is held before any changes are adopted by the Planning Board. The Master Plan had not had any major revisions through 1964, but certain changes such as particular street widenings and extensions have occurred.

Three main points are covered in the Master Plan: use of public land, creation and use of highways and streets on a local and regional basis, and major public improvements needed for the future.

In the section on land use, the land for schools, playgrounds and parks, libraries, fire stations, police headquarters, etc., are considered in regard to location, condition, and ability to meet public needs. The central business district is considered in terms of easy access and adequacy of parking. An open-space program to conserve still vacant land is included with suggestions for improvements.

The second section, the Major Thoroughfare Plan, considers the facilities for the movement of traffic into, out of and within the city. Recommendations are made for improving access to major arteries and for easing the flow of traffic within Plainfield itself.

The final part of the Master Plan lists the specific improvements. For example, the Plan recommends that all land at Cook School be retained, that Seidler Field be enlarged and developed, that East Second Street be widened from Roosevelt Avenue to Richmond Street, that Crescent Avenue be widened.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

In 1965 Plainfield’s Capital Improvements Program provided for the following:

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST	EXPECTED METHOD OF FINANCING	ESTIMATED YEAR OF COMPLETION
New Library	\$1,865,000	Federal Funds Private Grant	1967
New High School	8,000,000	Bond Issue Bond Issue State Aid	1969

OFFICIAL MAP

The Official Map of Plainfield shows the location of projected public improvements such as park and playground areas, proposed streets and street widenings, and drainage rights of way. Based on the recommendations made by the Planning Board in the Master Plan, the Official Map must be adopted by the Common Council. It is this approval which makes land reservation binding, rather than the Master Plan which by itself is not binding.

Once in force, private lands earmarked for public use cannot be improved by the owner without permission from the city. However, if the city does not decide to purchase the land within a specified length of time, the owner is allowed to develop it.

The Official Map is drawn by the City Engineer and his staff according to the specifications of the Planning Board and the Common Council.

ZONING

The first Plainfield Zoning Ordinance was adopted in 1923. The Common Council of Plainfield adopted the present Zoning Ordinance in 1959 on recommendation of the Planning Board. This Ordinance provides for 11 zones: A Residence, B Residence, C Residence, D Residence, E Residence, Modified E, Railroad, Business, Special Light Manufacturing, Light Manufacturing and Heavy Manufacturing. Specific regulations govern the use of land in each zone, and the Department of Public Works is responsible for their enforcement.

The purpose of the Zoning Ordinance is to regulate and restrict the use of private land in such a way as to enhance all aspects of the city. For this reason it limits the height and bulk of buildings and determines the area of yards, courts and other open spaces for build-

ings to be erected. It also regulates the conversion of buildings to other uses, the display of signs and advertising, the size of lots, the number of parking spaces needed and the restoration of buildings which have been destroyed. For example, a single family building must provide two off-street parking spaces while other dwellings, except elevator apartments, must provide one and one-half spaces per dwelling unit. Such specific regulations accompany each section of the Zoning Ordinance.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Exceptions to the zoning ordinance may be granted by the Board of Adjustment, a body established by permissive state law and the Zoning Ordinance. The Board consists of five members appointed by the Council for staggered three-year terms. Specific procedures must be followed and no exceptions are granted without a public hearing. Where a variance is in great conflict with the Zoning Ordinance, a final decision may be made by the Common Council.

Changes in the Zoning Ordinance itself can be made by majority vote of the Council, unless the Planning Board disapproves. In that case, a two-thirds vote is required. A two-thirds vote is also needed in case of a protest to a zoning amendment signed by owners of at least 20% of the area of land included in or adjacent to the site of the proposed changes.

The above procedures for establishing the Zoning Ordinance and for enforcing it all comply with Title 40, Chapter 55 of the Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey.



THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PLAINFIELD AREA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE)

Another group working on planning in Plainfield is the Advisory Committee, or the Plainfield Area Development Committee (not to be confused with the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Improvement). Designed to act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and the Common Council, the Plainfield Area Development Committee was

established by ordinance in October 1961 at the time of the departure of a major industrial employer (Mack Trucks, Inc.). The purpose of the committee is to attract new business and industry to Plainfield and to be of any possible service to existing businesses. It hopes to do this by making studies of population and economic trends and then making recommendations to and working in cooperation with the Planning Board and various other agencies of the city. The nine members of the Committee include the Mayor, two Councilmen, and six citizens appointed by the Mayor with Common Council approval. The staff work of the Advisory Committee is now done by the Planning Director, who is its secretary.

COMMUNITY RENEWAL PROGRAM

The Community Renewal Program, which will provide the city with a blueprint for a long-range program of renewal and redevelopment, was recommended by the Planning Board and approved by the Common Council in 1964.

A survey to be financed jointly by the federal government and the city will be conducted over a two-year period by a private planning consultant firm.

The basic purpose of the program is to identify and measure, in broad terms, the total need for urban renewal action in the community, to relate the need to the resources available, and to develop a long-range program for urban renewal action.

COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

The Union County Board of Freeholders in 1965 created a County Planning Board. The Board is composed of seven members including two Freeholders, the County Engineer and four members from the public all appointed by the Freeholders.

REGIONAL PLANNING

Planning is complicated in Plainfield because of the city's unique geographical position. Situated at the western tip of Union County, it is surrounded by areas of Middlesex and Somerset counties all of which share common problems.

In 1964 a temporary Regional Planning Council of the Greater Plainfield Area was formed to pave the way for the establishment of an official advisory board. The Council is composed of two representatives from each of 13 area communities.

Plainfield has approved official participation in the advisory planning board and has appropriated funds for the Council. The Council is concerned with problems in such areas as the following: traffic, location of highways, solid waste disposal, pollution; building construction and economic development.

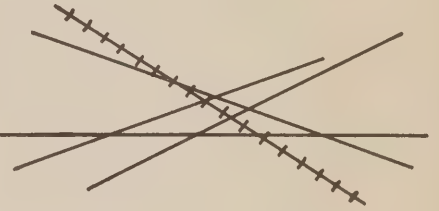
PUBLICATIONS

Two other publications provide additional information on planning for Plainfield and the surrounding communities. Both may be found in the Plainfield Public Library.

What's Ahead for Plainfield?, published by the League of Women Voters of Plainfield in 1961, looks at municipal planning in Plainfield.

The Plainfield Area, published by the Plainfield Trust State National Bank, is a survey compiled by professional planning consultants in 1963 which makes area-wide recommendations.

RECREATION AND PARKS



In an age of automation the growing youngsters of today will probably come to maturity at a time when leisure hours will constitute a greater part of their day. The quality of our lives and of our culture and the general health of our society will depend more and more on how creatively and successfully man learns to use his new-found freedom — **leisure time**. Skills and social outlets developed at a young age can enrich our lives for years to come.

From early fall through late spring the city's calendar of events is crowded with cultural, civic and social activities. Many of these activities are sponsored by the Department of Recreation.

RECREATION COMMISSION

The Recreation Commission is composed of five citizens appointed by the Mayor. Its members serve without pay for five-year terms, one term expiring each year. The Commission appoints the personnel and approves the policies and programs of the Recreation Department. It clears through the Planning Board all proposals for land acquisition.

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

Organized as a Playground Commission in 1910, the Department of Recreation was developed in 1923. The full-time staff, appointed by the Recreation Commission, consists of a Recreation Superintendent, assistant superintendent, supervisor of girls' and women's activities, three secretaries, and four maintenance men. The salary range for the superintendent is \$8,805-\$11,245. The part-time services of about 150 paid persons such as playground directors, supervisors for dances,

fall program instructors and game officials are also required. The department cooperates with local organizations whenever possible.

About 25% of the Department's activities are adult projects which are self-supporting through entry fees, registration fees and modest assessments. The remaining cost of the program is supported by tax money.

In 1964 the city appropriation was \$114,850. Of this sum \$99,435 was allocated for salaries, the remainder for office and other expenses.

ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

Instruction

In cooperation with the Board of Education, the Department sponsors the Adult Evening School, which is administered by its own council. Almost any subject or course for which an expert instructor can be found is made available for a nominal fee. The interest of the adult students is the governing factor in the choice of classes offered. Courses have ranged from Applied Psychology to Social Dancing.

The Department also sponsors for a nominal fee ten-week classes for youngsters between the ages of six and fifteen. A variety of courses is offered, including Sewing, Baton Twirling, and Arts and Crafts.

Playgrounds and Facilities

Under the Department's jurisdiction are the following play areas:

1. Seidler Field playground, Garfield Avenue and North Avenue, which includes a field house and storage building.
2. Plainfield Avenue playground and center, West Third Street and Plainfield Avenue. The center is a small building providing year-round supervised crafts, social programs, and clubs from 3 to 10 p.m. on weekdays.
3. F. S. Mathewson playground, West Third Street and Monroe Avenue, named after F. S. Mathewson, the first superintendent of recreation in Plainfield.
4. Rushmore Avenue playground, West Third Street and Rushmore Avenue.

All these playgrounds are open after school from the end of April until the beginning of the summer program and again after the closing of the summer program until the end of September. The Department also works in cooperation with the Board of Education in using school facilities for the recreational needs of the youngsters of Plainfield.

During the summer months, programs are operated on weekdays at the Department's playgrounds, Cedar Brook Park and the following schools: Barlow, Cook, Clinton, Emerson, Woodland, Lincoln and Jefferson. These playgrounds are open to youngsters between the ages of six and twelve. A well-balanced program of supervised play, crafts, and athletics is offered. Special activities have included creative dramatics, a traveling zoo, physical fitness, a treasure hunt, a puppet show, a nature hike, and a better books program. Supplementing the

regular program are a teenage center at Maxson Junior High School and a special program for the handicapped conducted at Emerson School.

Leagues

Leagues in baseball, softball, touch football and basketball are organized and scheduled during their seasons. These leagues are so organized that a boy, from the age of eight until he wishes to discontinue active participation, can fit into an organized league in any of these sports. Skeeter basketball and grid kid football, open to boys eight through twelve years of age, teach youngsters the basic fundamentals of these games. In addition, adult ball teams are organized and golf leagues are sponsored. The tennis courts on the high school field are open to all during the tennis season; tournaments for all age classifications are held. The high school swimming pool is under the Department's supervision during the summer months.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Ice Skating

There is supervised skating at Cook School Pond when conditions permit. Skating at Cedar Brook and Green Brook Parks is under the supervision of the Union County Park Commission.

Plainfield Area Little Theatre Council

This council consists of the Little Theatre groups and high school drama departments in this area. The Council sponsors activities such as drama tournaments, summer outdoor theatre productions in Cedar Brook Park, drama workshops, playwriting contests, and an Arts Festival.

The Junior Drama Tournament, for example, invites and encourages the participation of all high-school age drama groups in the vicinity. The Council co-sponsors the Creative Dramatics program on the Plainfield playgrounds.

Letters to Santa

Children in the Plainfield area who write letters to Santa Claus receive replies on attractive stationery. The Plainfield Post Office co-operates by placing outside its main building a special mailbox, easily accessible to youngsters. Volunteers answer all letters. Needy cases are checked out and referred to proper agencies for action.

Shut-In Council

The Council serves over 150 persons who are confined to their homes. Projects for shut-ins include monthly letters, delivery of flowers at Easter and a basket of fruit at Christmas time, visitations, birthday and get-well cards, and picking up and returning library books.

Easter Egg Hunt

Easter egg hunts are held for boys and girls six through nine years of age at two different locations each year. One is in the east end, the other in the west end of the city.





Band Concerts

Outdoor band concerts are presented weekly during the summer at various locations throughout the city.

Fourth of July

Plainfield's Fourth of July parade is considered by many to be the largest in the United States, witnessed by an estimated 100,000 spectators. This gala parade highlights a two-day program which also includes a Beauty Pageant, a Drum and Bugle Corps Exhibition, Band Concerts, and an aerial fireworks display in the Watchung Mountains.

Arrangements for the celebration are made by the Fourth of July Committee, a seven-member body composed of the Chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the Common Council and six other citizens appointed by the Mayor with Council approval for staggered three-year terms. Besides receiving an appropriation from the city, the Committee solicits funds from interested individuals and nearby communities. In 1965 the city budgeted \$2,800 for the celebration of Memorial Day and Independence Day. The Recreation Department serves as the central office and coordinates the two-day program.



Halloween

Four programs are usually conducted: a party for pre-teens, a senior high school dance, a junior high school dance and another dance for all teenagers at the year-round Plainfield Avenue center.

Loan Services of the Recreation Commission

A motion picture projector, a Santa Claus suit, equipment for an outdoor public address system, and picnic kits containing sports equipment are all available on a loan basis for a nominal fee.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Recreation Commission has recommended the following:

1. Development by 1966 of five or six acres in Tract 19, a 34-acre city-owned area located in the east end near Terrill Road and East Third Street, to provide softball and baseball fields, a children's playground, handball courts and hard-top tennis courts.
2. Immediate development of a "tot-lot" on Berkeley Terrace to provide playground facilities for young children in the neighborhood.
3. Acquisition of five lots adjacent to the Plainfield Avenue playground for baseball and softball fields.
4. Installation of lights at the recently macadamized area of Seidler Field so that the area may also be used for basketball, tennis and roller skating in the evening.

**ACTIVITIES NOT SPONSORED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION**

Music



One of the oldest nonprofit musical organizations in the country, the Plainfield Symphony Society, has given continuous pleasure to music lovers of the city and surrounding communities for 35 years. The orchestra consists of 80 musicians from the Plainfield area. Three adult concerts a year offer the public varied types of classical and semi-classical selections of both modern and traditional composers. Two special children's concerts are presented with the assistance of the Junior League of Plainfield. These concerts are informal, the children being permitted to mingle with the musicians to watch how the instruments are played.

The Plainfield Community Concerts Association is another group that fosters the musical interest of the public by presenting concerts featuring musicians of international renown. During the past 20 years this association has sponsored many fine programs, among them the Cleveland and Minneapolis symphony orchestras, the Robert Shaw Chorale and Isaac Stern the violinist. Only season memberships are available; no single concert tickets are sold.

The Arioso Chamber Music Group presents several programs each year in the Plainfield Library and surrounding communities.

About 70 men make up the Plainfield Mendelssohn Glee Club. This volunteer nonprofit group gives three concerts a year. Several other vocal groups flourish in the Plainfield area. Among them are the Sweet Adelines, Plainfield Community Chorus, Plainfield Choristers, and Plainfield Choral Society.

Art

Through the efforts of the Plainfield Public Library and the Plainfield Art Association, which is a group dedicated to encouraging art in the area, a variety of exhibits is presented each year in the gallery of the Library. Work done by members, state-wide artists, and local high school students is shown at these exhibits. The Art Association also sponsors a summer outdoor show at the Trailside Museum in Watchung Reservation. Other art exhibits can be seen at various times in local art stores and community centers.

Great Books Discussion Group

Adults who like to read and exchange ideas may join the Great Books Discussion Group which meets evenings every other week during the fall and winter, usually at the Plainfield Library. Trained leaders moderate discussions of selected classics ranging from the Bible to Twain's **Huckleberry Finn**.

Other Clubs and Organizations

Specialized interests and hobbies, such as bridge, chess, stamps, photography, and gardening have led to the creation of numerous

organizations. Along with the many social, political, fraternal, veteran's and service clubs, all these groups contribute to the enrichment of the city. A reasonably complete list of these clubs and organizations can be found in the Plainfield Library. Many have national affiliations, and many are philanthropic.

UNION COUNTY PARKS IN PLAINFIELD

Cedar Brook Park

A truly outstanding beauty spot, this park is located in the south end of town and has entrances at Park Avenue, Randolph Road and Pemberton Avenue. It comprises 86 acres and represents a miracle of transformation, for this area was originally the city garbage dump and a swamp. Today it is the garden center of the Union County Park system.

The Shakespeare Garden, located in the western portion of the park, is recognized as one of the finest in the country. Begun in 1927, on the 363rd anniversary of the immortal bard, it has been developed by the Union County Park Commission in cooperation with the Shakespeare Garden Club and the Garden Clubs of Plainfield. Containing 17 flower beds in geometrical designs and two borders 100 feet long, the garden was designed by an internationally known firm of landscape architects. It is planted with flowers of which Shakespeare wrote and with other flowers grown in England during the 16th and 17th centuries. About 40 plants are labeled with quotations from Shakespeare's plays and sonnets in which they are named. An arbor overhung with sixteenth century vines provides an entrance to the area. The garden reaches its beauty peak early in June.

The Iris Garden, planted during the summer of 1932, is, to our knowledge, the only public garden in the United States which has collections of all types of iris. It differs from other public plantings in its color scheme by avoiding a kaleidoscopic mixture of colors. New varieties of iris added each year increase the value of the garden artistically and educationally. On weekends throughout the blooming season members of the Iris Committee of the Plainfield Garden Club are present to answer visitors' questions.

The Daffodil Plantation was begun in 1936 and now contains many thousands of bulbs representing more than 200 varieties, all properly labeled. The bulbs are planted in drifts against a background of evergreens and shrubs. As far as is known, the Daffodil garden is the first large labeled planting in a public park and for twenty years has been the only one of its kind and size.

Begun in 1939, the **Peony Garden** now contains about 125 plants representing 100 named varieties. The **Hemerocallis Bed**, started in 1949, is also thriving with almost 80 varieties of lilies. The **Chrysanthemum Garden**, begun in 1950, contains over 200 plants of 28 varieties and makes a beautiful display.

An especially fine stand of about 200 dogwood trees adorns the Park Avenue entrance. With the cooperation of the Plainfield Garden



Club, a **Dogwood Arboretum** has been started and presently contains 43 varieties of trees and shrubs. As early as the last week in March, the yellow flowers of the cornelian cherry come into bloom. An outstanding planting of them borders the entrance drive from Park Avenue.

The recreational facilities of Cedar Brook Park include a bandstand, baseball field, soccer field, cricket field, football field, two quoits courts, four macadam tennis courts, three field houses and shelters, two picnic areas with fireplaces, and a lake offering ice skating and hockey in the winter and fishing in the summer. No charge is made for the use of any of these facilities, but reservations are advisable through the Union County Park Commission Office.

Green Brook Park

In 1926 the City of Plainfield and the Borough of North Plainfield donated to the Union County Park Commission a partially developed park of 60 acres. The Commission has since expanded it to 100 acres and developed it into the present beautiful spot familiar to all Plainfielders. Located in the west end of town, Green Brook has entrances on West End Avenue, Myrtle and Clinton Avenues.

Green Brook, the stream which runs through the center of the park, has its beginning in Seeley's Pond in the Watchung Reservation. Two small lakes provide skating in the winter and fishing in the summer. A bandstand, baseball field, football field, bowling green, coasting area, two field houses and shelters, six horseshoe courts, three quoits courts, soccer field, two softball fields, and a playground and picnic area with fireplaces all invite recreational activities. No charge is made for the use of any of these facilities. Of horticultural interest is an exceptional fine rhododendron border.

The two parks are administered by the Union County Park Commission, a policy-making body whose five members are appointed by the Assignment Judge of the Superior Court of Union County for five-year terms without pay. The parks are supported by county tax monies collected from all municipalities in the county and by self-sustaining facilities. The two parks are available for the use and enjoyment of all. The Plainfield schools and the Recreation Department, by co-operative arrangement with the Commission, use the parks for some of their activities.

These are dates to remember if the horticultural beauty of the parks is to be enjoyed to the fullest:

	FIRST BLOOM	FULL BLOOM
Daffodil Plantation	April 10	April 19-25
Iris Garden		
Dwarf Early	April 15-25	May 1-15
Tall-bearded and		
Siberians	May 10-15	May 13-30
Dogwood	April 23 - May 6	April 30 - May 20
Peony	May 20-25	May 25 - June 7
Hybrid Rhododendrons	May 15-20	May 20-28
Hemerocallis	April into September	
Chrysanthemums	Mid-October to late November	



The Shakespeare Garden

PLAINFIELD CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS

CHURCHES

Baptist

First-Park Baptist Church, 315 W. 7th St.
 Plainfield Seventh Day Baptist Church
 501 Central Ave.
 Calvary Baptist Church, 340 Monroe Ave.
 Shiloh Baptist Church, 517 W. 4th St.
 Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 216 Liberty St.
 Miracle Baptist Church of Christ, 522 E. 7th St.

Catholic

St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church
 1223 George St.
 St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church
 514 Liberty St.
 St. Stanislaus Kostka Roman Catholic Church
 1003 W. 4th St.

Episcopal

Grace Episcopal Church, 131 E. 7th St.
 St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 635 E. 3rd St.
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 620 Ravine Rd.
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 414 Clinton Ave.

Lutheran

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
 630 E. Front St.
 Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 1240 E. 7th St.

Methodist

Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church
 525 W. 4th St.
 First Methodist Church, 631 E. Front St.
 Wesley Methodist Church, 1322 Plainfield Ave.

Presbyterian

Bethel Presbyterian Church, 300 E. 5th St.
 First Presbyterian Church, 525 E. Front St.
 Grant Avenue Presbyterian Church
 606 Grant Ave.
 Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
 158 Crescent Ave.

Reformed

Trinity Reformed Church, 144 W. 2nd St.
 Netherwood Reformed Church, 225 Leland Ave.

Synagogues

Temple Beth El (Conservative), 225 E. 7th St.
 Temple Sholom Congregation, 815 W. 7th St.
 Children of Israel Synagogue, 121 New St.
 Congregation Ohav Sholom, 422 W. Front St.

Others

Calvary Full Gospel Church, 1001 S. 2nd St.
 Community Church, 825 W. 7th St.
 Congregational Church of Plainfield
 212 W. 7th St.
 Church of God, 347 W. 3rd St.
 Church of God, 415 W. 6th St.
 Church of God, 214 Fillmore Ave.
 Church of the Living God, 434 E. 4th St.
 First Christian Assembly Church, 400 W. 8th St.
 First Church of Christ, Scientist, 905 Park Ave.
 First Church of Religious Science
 440 W. 7th St.
 First Unitarian Church, 724 Park Ave.
 Friends (Quaker) Meeting House of Plainfield
 Watchung Ave. and E. 3rd St.
 New Apostolic Church, 929 Putnam Ave.
 Pentecostal Church, 1011 S. 2nd St.
 Plainfield Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses
 909 W. 4th St.
 Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1430 Park Ave.
 Seventh Day Adventist Church
 503 Richmond St.
 St. Paul and Mt. Zion Calvary Pentecostal
 Church, 224 New St.
 Supreme Council of House of Jacob
 302 Monroe Ave.
 Temple Church of God in Christ
 201 Liberty St.
 The Salvation Army, 615 Watchung Ave.

ORGANIZATIONS

This list was compiled from several sources, chiefly from a card file at the Plainfield Public Library. Additional information about these and other organizations may be found at the Public Library and also at the Community Service Council office, 703 Watchung Avenue.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL

Engineer's Club
Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association
Netherwood Businessmen's Association
Optometric Society
Patrolmen's Benevolent Association
Plainfield Area Board of Realtors
Plainfield Area Chamber of Commerce
Plainfield Area Medical Association
Plainfield Automotive Trades Council
Plainfield Bar Association
Plainfield Business & Professional Women's Club
Plainfield Business Association
Plainfield Dental Society
Plainfield Medical Society

Many regional and national professional organizations have active memberships in Plainfield.

CULTURAL

Art

Plainfield Art Association
Somerset Art Film Society

Drama

Junior League Children's Theatre
Kenyon Players
Parish Players
Plainfield Area Little Theatre Council
Valley Players

Literary

Dorothea Dix Lawrence Folklore Society
Sesame Club

Music

American Harp Society (Watchung Chapter)
Arioso Chamber Music Group
Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of, Inc.
Community Center Chorus (Jewish Community Center)
Community Concert Association
Garden State Choral Society
Hammond Organ Society
Junior Musicians Club
Mendelssohn Glee Club
Plainfield Choral Society
Plainfield Choristers
Plainfield Community Chorus
Plainfield Musical Club
Plainfield Symphony Society
Sweet Adelines

Plainfield Area Cultural Forum

RECREATION

Amateur Astronomers Inc.
Arms Collector's Club
Bowling Association
Chess Club
Coin Club
Curling Club
Flying Arrow Club
Hiking Club (Union County)
Homing Pigeon Club
Keepsake Doll Club
Lawn Bowling Club
Mineralogical Society
Model A Ford Club (New Jersey)
Model Plane Club
Outboard Boating Club (Tri-County)
Plainfield Camera Club
Plainfield Kennel Club
Plainfield Old Guard
Plainfield Promenaders
Post Card Club
Queen City Rod and Gun Club
Red Bird Organization
Shooting Club
Ski Club
Stamp and Cover Club
Tri-County Radio Association
Watchung Nature Club
Wheel and Dash Sports Car Club of Plainfield
Wizard, Wand and Wabbit Club
Women's Golf Association

RELIGIOUS

B'nai Brith
Brith Abraham
Catholic Daughters of America
Catholic Women's Club of the Plainfields
Catholic Youth Association
Council of Church Women
Episcopal Church Women of the Plainfield District
Gideons (Plainfield Camp)
Hadassah
Junior Catholic Women's Club
Knights of Columbus
Laurel League of Plainfield
Mizrachi
National Council of Jewish Women (Plainfield Section)
Plainfield Area Council of Churches
Plainfield Ministerial Fellowship
Plainfield Ministers' Association
Synodical Brotherhood

Almost every church and synagogue in Plainfield has one or more women's auxiliary or men's club.

POLITICAL

Democratic Club
Democratic Women's Club
Republican Club of Plainfield
Republican Conservative Action Club
Women's Republican Club
Young Republican Club

VETERAN

American Legion
Central Board of Veterans
Disabled American Veterans
Jewish War Veterans
Retired Officers Association
Veterans of Foreign Wars

GENERAL

(Including fraternal, ethnic, civic, and other organizations not otherwise classified)

Achievement Club
African Violet Society
American Association for United Nations
American Way Association
Ancient Order of Hibernians
Bonnes Amies Club
Booster's Club
Boy Scouts of America (Watchung Area Council)
Century Club
Cherry Dell Garden Club
Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy
Consumers Cooperative of Plainfield
Congress of Racial Equality (Plainfield Chapter)
Cosmopolitan Club
Craftman's Club
Daughters of American Colonists
Daughters of the American Revolution
Daughters of St. George
Daughters of Scotia
Emblem Club (YMCA)
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Free and Accepted Masons
Friends of the Plainfield Public Library, Inc.
Frontiers International
Garden and Lawn Improvement Club
Gesang und Turn-Verein Inc.
Girl Scout Council, Washington Rock
Gold Star Mothers
Golden Age Club (Jewish Community Center)
Golden Age Club (Neighborhood House)
Golden Thread Club for Senior Citizens
Greater Plainfield Senior Citizens' Center
Hellenic Women's Club
Hillside Terrace Neighborhood Association
Historical Society of Plainfield and North Plainfield
Horizons Unlimited
Improved and Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World
Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Italian-American Social Club
Jaycees, Plainfield
Jewish Community Center
Junior League of Plainfield
Junior Women's Club of Plainfield

Kiwanis Club
Knights of Pythias
Knights of Templar
Ladies Social Club of the Plainfields
League of Women Voters
Lions Club
Loyal Order of Moose
Maddalonesi Society
Marine Corps League
Mayflower Society
Memorial Society of Plainfield
Monday Afternoon Club
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Council of Negro Women
Navy League of the United States
Neighborhood House
Newcomers' Club
Optimist Club
Order of Ahepa
Order of DeMolay
Order of Eastern Star
Order of Rainbow for Girls
Order of Scottish Clans, Clan Mac Kenzie
Patriotic Order of Americans
Pilot Club of the Plainfields
Plainfield Area Committee on Human Relations
Plainfield Country Club
Plainfield Foundation
Plainfield Garden Club
Plainfield Inter-Service Club
Plainfield Women's Club
Police Athletic League
Polish Association
Polish Falcons
Queen City Toastmasters
Quota Club
Rotary Club
Senior Citizens Club (YMCA)
Shepherds of Bethlehem
Society of Colonial Wars
Sons of Italy
Spade and Trowel Garden Club
Steuben Society
Tall Cedars of Lebanon
Twin Mothers Club
Ukrainian Society
Watchung Speakers Club of Plainfield
Weight Watchers Club
Welcome Wagon
Young Men's Christian Association
Young Women's Christian Association

EDUCATION

American Field Service (Plainfield High School Chapter)
Intermediate Teachers Association
National Association of College Women
Parent-teacher associations
Plainfield College Club (A.A.U.W.)
Plainfield Teachers Association
Scholarship Clearing House of the Plainfields
Student Aid Fund Committee
Alumni and alumnae chapters of numerous colleges are also active.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Alcoholics Anonymous
American Cancer Society
American Red Cross (Plainfield Area Chapter)
Catholic Community Services
Cerebral Palsy League (Union County)
Committee for Employment of the Handicapped
Community Action Program (CAP)
Community Chest of Plainfield
Community Service Council
Creative Hands
Deborah
Elks Crippled Children's Committee
King's Daughters, Plainfield City Union of The
Legal Aid Society of Union County
McCall Auxiliary of the Plainfield Area
Muhlenberg Hospital Women's Auxiliary
National Hemophilia Foundation (Central Jersey
Guild)

Organization for Rehabilitation through Training
(ORT)
Plainfield Hearing Society
Plainfield Humane Society
Plainfield League for Planned Parenthood
Plainfield League for the Handicapped
Plainfield Rescue Squad
Salvation Army
Shut-in Council
Union County Association for Mental Health
Union County Psychiatric Clinic
Union County Society for Crippled Children and
Adults
United Community Fund
United Family and Children's Society
Visiting Homemaker Service of Central Union
County, Inc.
Visiting Nurses Association

For additional information:

Mrs. William Bellerjeau, Jr., President
515 Leland Avenue
Plainfield, New Jersey 07062
756-8813

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Street Map
of the
City of Plainfield

compliments of
PLAINFIELD TRUST
STATE NATIONAL BANK

MAIN OFFICE 202 Park Avenue
FRONT STREET OFFICE 111 E. Front Street
NETHERWOOD OFFICE 1125 South Avenue
SEVENTH STREET OFFICE 120 W. Seventh Street
COUNTY LINE OFFICE 1225 W. Seventh Street
TRUST DEPARTMENT 221 Park Avenue

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

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Legend

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- RAILROADS
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS
- MAIN ROADS
- LOCAL STREETS
- PROPOSED OR UNIMPROVED ROADS
- SCHOOLS & PUBLIC BUILDINGS
- TOWN & COUNTY BOUNDARIES

PLAINFIELD, N. J.

C I T Y O F F I C I A L S
(As of January 1, 1966)

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MAYOR

Robert C. Maddox	City Hall	756-2715
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COMMON COUNCIL

1st Ward

Orestes N. Cembrola	1113 St. Mark's Place	757-2279
Everett C. Lattimore	214 Hillcrest Avenue	756-3771

2d Ward

William B. Jupp, Jr.	755 Berkeley Avenue	757-4352
John T. Monzani	1332 Prospect Avenue	757-2425

3d Ward

William A. Dreier	120 Randolph Road	755-5885
Richard J. Lawler	1012 West 8th Street	756-4475

4th Ward

Phillip V. Hammond	369 Rushmore Avenue	757-8375
Mrs. Frank D. Ricci	924 West Front Street	

At Large

Stephen D. Furino	710 Elaine Court	756-7054
Paul J. O'Keefe	1202 Watchung Avenue	757-0356
Charles T. Steffens	955 Woodland Avenue	753-9031

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire Department	756-1500
Police Department	756-6000
Rescue Squad	756-6000
Physicians Exchange	756-0033
Muhlenberg Hospital	756-1750

A more complete directory giving further information on city officials, commissions and boards can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office.

PLAINFIELD, N. J.

CITY DEPARTMENTS

E		
A		
G	Board of Adjustment (Zoning)	756-2706
U	Board of Education	757-7000
E	Dr Nobel C Hiebert, Superintendent of Schools	
	Board of Health	756-0704
O	Frank M Doughty, Health Officer	
F	City Clerk and Business Administrator	756-2700
	Fred Toegel	
W	City Physician	753-9481
O	Dr Nathan Morris	
M	City Yards	756-3170
E	Civil Defense Center	756-6000
N	Kusiel Gordon, Director	
	Corporation Counsel	757-8800
V	Edward Sachar	
O	Department of Buildings	756-2706
T	Alfred A Schmidt, Chief Building Inspector	
E	and Public Officer	
R	Department of Public Works	756-2710
S	Norman E Gehri, City Engineer	
	Drake House Museum	755-5831
	Finance Department	756-1104
	Bayard M Manser, Supervisor of Municipal	
	Finances and Accounts	
	Fire Department	756-1501
	Florance F Donovan, Chief	
	Housing Authority and Redevelopment Agency	757-7722
	Clifford A Young, Director	
	Human Relations Commission	754-6690
	Earl Phillips, Director	
	Humane Society, Dog Pound	754-0300
	Library	757-1111
	Lynniel A Moore, Director	
	Municipal Court	753-6661
	Edwin D Kunzman, Magistrate	
	Parking Authority	756-4328
	Walter Smith, Manager	
	Plainfield Area Development Committee	753-1660
	Planning Director	754-8866
	Paul M Segal	
	Police Department	756-6000
	Milford S Payne, Acting Chief	
	Recreation Department	756-6171
	Francis M Sabino, Superintendent	
	Tax Assessor	756-3497
	Daniel P. Kiely, Jr	
	Tax Collector	756-2702
	John W Regan	
	Treasurer	756-5000
	Raymond B Cray	
	Welfare Department	755-1760
	Mrs. Ruth H Dudley, Director	

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